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# GASTON COUNTY BAPTIST CHURCH HISTORY.

Compiled by
Special Historical Commission
of the
Gaston County Baptist Association

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# Gaston County Baptist Church History

1935

Compiled by Special Historical Commission

*Of The*

GASTON COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DR. J. W. WHITLEY, Chairman

DAVID E. BOBBITT F. M. HUGGINS

W. T. BAUCOM

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REFERENCE

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79-479

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# Our Church Histories

There follows a brief history of the Gaston County Baptist Association and the churches within her borders. We believe it will be of very great interest to all Gastonia Baptists as well as to many in other sections who have been and are still watching us.

Many will perhaps ask why this matter has been prepared and now included with the Minutes of our Association. This question we will answer. At the 1933 session of the Association a Historical Commission was appointed and instructed to prepare a history, such as has now been prepared, but the Commission failed to receive due co-operation from all persons concerned and the matter was delayed. At the 1934 session this matter was brought to the attention of the body again and this time a Commission was appointed and given definite instructions.

The Commission appointed by the Moderator, R. G. Mace, was as follows: Dr. J. W. Whitley, Chairman; David E. Bobbitt, F. M. Huggins, and W. T. Baucom. This Commission has performed well the task assigned to them.

This word should be said for the histories. That of the Association was prepared by W. J. Francis, of Belmont, who was our efficient and faithful Moderator for nine years. Those of the local churches have in each case been prepared by some designated person in the local church and therefore will be of very great interest to all persons locally.

It is also of interest to say that the plans of the present officials of the Association and the pastors of the several churches are that this work shall be revised each ten years and included within the Minutes. Thus keeping alive the history that Gaston County Baptists are and will be making.

Your copy of this work should be preserved for your own use and that of your children and friends after you.

W. L. WALTERS, Clerk
Gaston County Baptist Association



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# History of Gaston County Baptist Association

By W. F. Francis

The territory covered by the Gaston County Baptist Association was first occupied by the Sandy Creek Association, the oldest in North Carolina, organized in 1758; the Charleston Association in 1751, the oldest in South Carolina. Both these Associations sent missionaries into this territory.

The Bethel Association was formed in 1789. Long Creek Church, near Dallas, N. C. in Gaston County, the oldest Baptist church in this part of the State, was a member of the Bethel Association.

The Catawba River Association was organized in 1827. The Baptist churches along the Catawba River from the headwaters to the South Carolina line belonged to this Association.

The Broad River Association was formed in 1800. Long Church, and perhaps others in what is now Gaston County, belonged to the Broad River Association. Graham says in his history of the South Fork Association that the Baptists of the South Fork Association were decendents of the Broad River Association.

The Kings Mountain Association was organized in 1851, and began work in the territory of Gaston County; though some of the churches in the County belonged to the Broad River Association. In 1854 Long Creek Church joined the Kings Mountain Association and in 1877 the First Baptist Church of Gastonia became a member of Kings Mountain Association. Most of the churches in the county belonged to the Kings Mountain Association at this time, though some belonged to the Broad River and perhaps some to the York Association in South Carolina.

The South Fork Association was organized at Kid's Chapel, November 22,1828. Most of the churches in Catawba, Lincoln and Gaston counties belonged to this Association.

On Tuesday, Nov. 4, 1919 in the First Baptist Church in Gastonia, the Gastonia County Association was organized with the following churches, all located in Gaston County: Dallas, Mt. Beulah, Long Creek, Alexis, Belmont First, Belmont East, Gastonia, First, East, Gastonia South (Marietta) St., Loray, Hickory Grove, High Shoals, Lowell, Mayworth (Cramerton), McAdenville, Mt. Zion, Mt. Holly, Sandy Plains, Spencer Mountain, Tuckaseege, Bruington, Cherryville,





Bessemer City and Shady Grove, with a membership of 5,397. Since the organization the following new churches have joined the Association: Center View, Calvary, Hull's Grove, Lucia, Ranlo, West Mt. Holly, Flint Groves, Hardin, Bethel, Temple, Mountain View, Webb's Chapel and Woodlawn. The membership at this time had reached 8,102. These churches contributed to the Seventy-Five Million Campaign $25,379.00, to all objects $175,347.20, the Associational year ending September 30, 1923. On December 14th. the Baptist State Convention met in the First Baptist Church in Gastonia, N. C. The Seventy-Five Million Campaign was in progress when the Gaston County Association was organized. The South Fork Association had been apportioned $225,000.00 by the Baptist State Convention through its Committee. A joint committee from the South Fork Association and the Gaston County Association met and apportionment to the two Associations: giving the Gaston County $130,000.00, and the South Fork $95,000.00. The Gaston County Association pledged approximately $280,000.00. The Minutes of the Association show that up to September 30, 1925, $46,856.74 had been paid.

The figures show that the Gaston County pledged more liberally than almost any other Association in the State. Following are the figures as taken from the records kept in the Missions rooms in the archives of the Baptist State Convention in Raleigh, for the contributions to the Seventy-Five Million Campaign from the time it started, and then to the various names given to the Mission work from time to time. For the first five years the Orphanage collections were included.

Funds sent in by

| | | W. M. U. | Orphanage | Centennial Fund |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1920 | $52,131.38 | $11,575.22 | $..... | $..... |
| 1921 | 25,708.20 | 10,004.23 | ..... | ..... |
| 1922 | 26,980.00 | 9,317.04 | ..... | ..... |
| 1923 | 25,152.52 | 10,026.37 | ..... | ..... |
| 1924 | 30,304.07 | 10,270.44 | ..... | ..... |
| 1925 | 18,285.02 | 5,845.48 | 2,521.32 | ..... |
| 1926 | 16,403.05 | 8,485.97 | 2,468.89 | ..... |
| 1927 | 17,446.27 | 7,537.60 | 5,252.51 | ..... |
| 1928 | 17,868.21 | 9,090.54 | 3,683.79 | 3,704.39 |
| 1929 | 16,935.46 | 9,637.42 | 4,936.56 | 3,796.80 |
| 1930 | 13,906.70 | 7,841.03 | 3,681.62 | 2,203.13 |
| 1931 | 12,676.30 | 7,210.25 | 3,465.26 | 3,630.12 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1932 | 10,894.14 | 5,620.45 | 2,120.37 | 558.43 |
| 1933 | 10,651.15 | 5,851.67 | 2,365.95 | ..... |
| 1934 | 13,351.97 | 6,109.73 | 3,367.85 | ..... |
| 1935 | 9,290.52 up to Sept. 18th | (Not made up) | | |

The Historical Table, found in the tabulated section of this Minute will give you the record of the year, place, preacher, Moderator and Clerk of all the meeting of our Association.

The history of any nation or community could not be written except it be written about the men and women who were instrumental in bringing to pass the things which go to make history. And so, it should not be amiss to mention a few outstanding characters who made the Gaston County Association what it has amounted to in the past and some of whom are still carrying on. The following men and women have made and are still making history for the Baptists of Gaston County Association: Rev. W. C. Barrett, Rev. R. G. Mace, Dr. J. W. Whitley, Rev. T. L. Cashwell, Rev. J. J. Beach, Rev. W. G. Camp, Rev. M. L. Barnes, Rev. C. J. Black, Rev. W. B. McClure,Rev. W. L. Walters, Mrs. H. B. Moore, Mrs. M. L. Barnes, and laymen not a few, who have stood by through the years and have rendered faithful and efficient service.





## HISTORY OF THE ALEXIS BAPTIST CHURCH

Prior to the organization of the Alexis Baptist Church services were held beneath a brush arbor, located near the residence of Coleman Franklin Abernathy. Here the first Sunday School was organized and an occasional preaching service was held. Later services were conducted in the village's first public school building. Among those ministers who preached in the arbor and school house the writer recalls J. A. Hoyle, P. W. Bangle, C. M. Erwin and James Heavenor.

The Alexis Baptist Church had its beginning with the Twentieth Century. Under the leadership of Rev. C. M. Ervin the church was organized in 1903. The charter members came principally from Mt. Zion Church in Lincoln County. Coleman Franklin Abernathy, a Deacon and leader in the organization of the Church, donated one acre of beautifully elevated land in the center of his farm, on which a substantial frame structure, to which has been added four Sunday school rooms, was built. The building was complete in 1904 under the leadership of Rev. C. W. Payseur, the Church's second Pastor. The dedicatory sermon was delivered by Dr. W. R. Gwaltny of Hickory, N. C. Alexis, the village in which this church is located, is on highway No. 27, about 22 miles northwest from Charlotte.

During the history of the Church it has had fifteen Pastors, viz: C. M. Ervin, C. W. Payseur, C. A. Caldwell, C. M. Robinson, J. A. Hoyle, J. D. Moose, G. P. Abernathy, W. B. McLure, W. W. Rimmer, A. W. Setzer, W. C. Barrett, Hoyle Love, R. G. Short, W. T. Baucom and S. M. Stroup. These brethren have served faithfully with small financial remuneration, and we feel honored to have had them.

The growth of the church has been slow but constant. In thirty years our membership has increased from 22 to 233. This growth can not be estimated in number alone, as we have grown in spirituality and benevolence.

During the three decades of its life our church has given to the denomination three ordained ministers.

Rev. C. A. Lineberger was ordained in 1912. He has held very successful pastorates at Wyllesburg, Va., Drexel, N. C. and Marshallburg, N. C. At these places his building programs were outstanding. Brother Lineberger, after more than twenty years of successful ministry, has been forced to retire from active service on account of ill health.

The second member to be ordained was Brother W. F. Huggins. He held no regular pastorates, but rendered great service as a con-

secrated servant of God. Brother Huggins was a man of considerable literary attainment, poor in this world's goods but rich in grace. He died early in 1935, and was buried in the Mt. Zion cemetery.

S. M. Stroupe was the third member of the Alexis Church to be ordained for the Gospel ministry. He spent the early years of his manhood in serving his church as Sunday School Superintendent and deacon. Later Brother Stroupe attended Mars Hill College and in 1923 was ordained for the ministry. He served churches in Western North Carolina for a number of years. In 1928 he was called back to his home church and for six years has been pastor. Brother Stroupe has had the cooperation of his many friends and co-workers during his pastorate.

Our dead would be mentioned by this writer. Four of our Deacons, a greater number of laymen and one ordained minister other than these already mentioned, are worthy of special note. William H. Abernathy, Deacon, who lived within a stone's throw of the church, died November 2, 1915, his grave marked the beginning of the Church's Cemetery. His request was to be buried by the church he had loved to serve. A. A. Lineberger, Deacon, fell to his death from the tower of the church as he assisted in painting, on August 1, 1927. He was active and faithful in his unassuming way. Coleman Franklin Abernathy, charter Deacon and active in all the affairs of the church, passed quietly and unexpectedly to his reward on the night of November 14, 1931. Brother Abernathy was a loyal supporter of his church for many years. The fourth Deacon was Brother N. F. Hovis active and interested in his church, but desiring no place of prominence. Brother Hovis passed to his eternal home a few years ago and was buried with his people in the Salem Cemetery.

Among the laymen who have passed on we would mention Bro. E. V. Senter who was a loyal member. His home-going has taken a good man from us. Anderson Stroupe, a charter member, and the father of our present pastor, Rev. S. M. Stroupe, was interested in his church and remained a faithful member until his death. Among the beloved members who have departed this life was Brother Alfred Black, a Confederate war veteran, and perhaps the oldest member we have had. His great faith in God made him a good man, loved and respected. Brother. Black died January 4, 1933, at the age of 88 years.

Rev. J. M. Ballard, who for many years held membership with the Alexis Church was an ordained minister and held pastorates in Gaston, Lincoln and Catawba Counties. He was an humble ser-





vant of the Lord, and not ashamed of the Gospel of the Son of God. Brother Ballard died October 8, 1932 and was buried in the Alexis Cemetery.

Our church today moves forward. A younger generation takes up the work laid down by those who have passed away. We have a lively Sunday School under the efficient superintendency of Brother D. B. Bradshaw. It is maintained continuously and has all but attained the Standard of Excellence. We have need to be proud of our B. T. U. also. We have Adult, Senior, Intermediate and Junior Unions, active in their work. Ralph Cannon, who has recently decided to prepare for the ministry, has been the B. T. U. director. The Church's contributions grow year by year. We support the Orphanage regularly and contribute monthly to the Co-Opeative Program; and strive to be missionary in word and deed.

Submitted by,

C. L. ABERNATHY, Church Historian.

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF EAST BELMONT BAPTIST CHURCH
### June 1912—June 1935

The East Baptist Church was organized on the evening of June the 10th, 1912, in a school building in East Belmont where the Baptist of the community had been conducting a Sunday School, and different preachers had been preaching there from time to time. It was under the wise leadership of Rev. C. M. Ervin, who had preached at the school house a number of times, that the meeting was called on the night of June the 10th, 1912, for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. The presbytery consisted of Rev. C. M. Irwin, Rev. C. E. Beaver, Rev. J. J. Beach, and Rev. Geo. L. Mullis. C. M. Irwin was elected moderator and Geo. L. Mullis, Clerk. C. E. Beaver discussed the subject, "The officers of a Baptist Church." Geo. L. Mullis spoke on the topic, "What Constitutes a Baptist church," and J. J. Beach "The Mission of a Baptist Church." There were twenty-four who presented themselves with letters from other churches who desired to enter into this organization. The Church Covenant was read by J. J. Beach, and accepted by the candidates, and "The Articles of our Faith" were read by C. E. Beaver and approved by the body. Prayer was offered by C. E. Beaver, and the presbytery extended to them the right hand of fellowship, and declared the body a duly organized Missionary Baptist Church, and an independent body.

The Church immediately went into conference and asked Rev. C. M. Irwin to act as Moderator. The Church adopted as its name, "East Belmont Baptist Church." It then elected Rev. C. M. Irwin as its first pastor, and J. W. Montgomery as Deacon, and C. E. Houser as Clerk.

Rev. C. M. Irwin served as pastor until the end of the year, then Rev. C. E. Beaver served the Church a few months. After the resignation of C. E. Beaver in the spring of 1913 the Church called Rev. C. A. Caldwell who was serving Hickory Grove and McAdenville, and he served the church very acceptably until March 1915. Rev. Walter E. Wilson was then extended a call and he served the church very efficiently for one year. The church then placed its care in the hands of Rev. R. G. Mace as a full time shepherd, and he began his ministry the last Sunday in March 1916, and led the church valiantly and efficiently through many changing conditions until May 1934. Rev. R. L. Pruette served as supply pastor from May till the first of October 1934. At that time P. A. Hicks the present pastor took up the fallen reins.





The first building was erected under the leadership of Walter E. Wilson in 1915. This building was later enlarged by Rev. R. G. Mace. The first parsonage was erected by Rev. R. G. Mace in the fall of 1916. It was found in 1930 that the church had out grown its equipment, and under the leadership of its beloved pastor a lot was purchased on East Main Street and a large commodious brick building, costing seventeen thousand dollars, with thirty-three class rooms, and seating 550 was erected. The first parsonage had become inadequate, and the church was renting a home for its pastor, and in January 1935 the church decided to build a new parsonage. The first of February work was started on the seat of the old church building, and a beautiful eight room brick veneer building was erected costing thirty-seven hundred dollars.

The church is twenty-three years old and during its history it has ordained and sent our four ministers and licensed eight others to exercise their gifts in public speaking. The church aided in the organization of Center View Baptist Church, and gave fifteen of the charter members to the organization. It has received into its membership 617 by baptism and 864 by letter making a total of 1,481, or an average of 64 per year. The church has raised for all purposes at home and abroad $98,672.14, or an average of $4,290.09 per year. The membership at the close of the last associational year was 524.

The church was well organized under the long and fruitful ministry of Rev. R. G. Mace, and maintained a strong and healthy Sunday School, the B. Y. P. U's. were active and efficient, and the Womans Missionary Society was aggressive and faithful. The Deacons that have served the church through the years have been men of character and consecration, who have been loyal to the cause. Thus, through the tireless effort of its pastors, and the loyalty and faithfulness of its membership, the church has wrought well and achieved for itself a glorious history and developed one of the most active and aggressive churches in the Association.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, Belmont, N. C.**
Organized as
**FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH**

The following will show the origin and organization of Fellowship Baptist Church.

Bruington Baptist Church having been legally dissolved, a portion of its members with letters from other churches consisting of Sandy Plains met at Jingles School house on the 4th. day of October 1874, and after reading and agreeing upon the Baptist Covenant and Principles of Faith were organized into a Baptist church by a presbytery consisting of Elders A. L. Stough, D. W. Thomason, and I. M. Hildebrand.

The Covenant and Principles of Faith agreed upon can be found in Hiscox Baptist Church Directory beginning page 152 and ending on the 177th. page.

The following is a list of members in the organization:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Names of Females** | Sarah A. Smith | J. F. Rumfelt |
| Margaret Smith | Elizabeth Flowers | C. W. Abernathy |
| Sarah Abernathy | | J. B. Smith |
| N. A. Wilson | **Names of Males** | G. W. Abernathy |
| C. I. Armstrong | W. F. Wilson | Calvin Flowers |
| E. L. J. Stowe | H. B. Wilson | Harry Croner |
| M. L. Sanders | J. C. Sanders | D. N. Mitchell |
| Rebecca Creesman | J. A. Creesman | G. H. Fite |

After the church was organized it adopted:

1. Fellowship as the name by which to be known in the future.
2. Appointed Brother W. F. Wilson and D. N. Mitchell as Deacons being already ordained.
3. Appointed brethren C. H. Fite and J. B. Smith and J. A. Creesman a committee to forward building a house for worship.
4. Appointed W. F. Wilson, Church Clerk.
5. Appointed Brother G. W. Abernathy as Church Treasurer.
6. Agreed to apply to the York Association for membership in that body.
7. Appointed Brethren G. S. Fite, J. A. Creesman and I. M. Hildebrand as delegates to the Association.
8. Requested I. M. Hildebrand to write the letter.
9. Adjourned to meet the third Sunday in October.

I. M. HILDEBRAND, Pro Tem.





Third Sunday; Met according to adjournment. After reading the Scriptures and prayers the church authorized its delegates to pledge 10 cents a member for Associational Missions.

Adjourned to meet the second Sunday in November.

I. M. HILDEBRAND, Clerk, Pro Tem

Second Sunday; Met according to adjournment. After services the church proceeded to business appointing Brother Fite Moderator, and I. M. Hildebrand, Clerk.

1. Considered the propriety of calling a preacher for the ensuing year.
2. Unanimously agreed to call Elder D. W. Thomasson.
3. Proceeded to raise his salary and run the subscription up to 70 odd dollars.
4. Adjourned to meet when Brother Thomasson will give an appointment.

I. M. HILDEBRAND, Clerk, Pro Tem.

| PASTOR | ELECTED | RESIGNED |
|---|---|---|
| D. W. Thomasson | October 4, 1874 | October 1, 1881 |
| (Organizer and founder of Church—Church joined York Ass'n.) | | |
| P. R. Elam | March 4, 1882 | Fall 1882 |
| A. L. Stough | December 1882 | August 30, 1885 |
| J. R. Faulkner | August 30, 1885 | August 28, 1887 |
| J. A. White | November 12, 1887 | March 22, 1890 |
| J. E. McManaway | October 26, 1890 | October 3, 1891 |
| M. P. Matheny | October 3, 1891 | October 4, 1896 |
| (Church joined South Ford Association) | | |
| D. M. Austin | November 22, 1896 | November 26 1899 |
| J. L. Vipperman | November 29, 1899 | November 28, 1900 |
| P. H. Purnell | December 2, 1900 | May 10, 1906 |
| D. M. Austin | May 10, 1906 | December 12, 1909 |
| J. L. Shinn | December 12, 1909 | March 6, 1910 |
| D. M. Austin | Supply | Supply |
| L. M. Hobbs | March 26, 1911 | May 25, 1913 |
| (Agitation for new church building. New church building under construction. Pastor resigned on account of ill health.) | | |
| T. C. Holland | May 25, 1913 | August 17, 1913 |
| (New church completed and was dedicated June 22, 1913. Dr. R. T. Vann preached sermon) | | |
| L. M. Hobbs | August 17, 1913 | September 26, 1915 |
| (East Church organized. Letters grandted to a number to join the | | |

new church. Withdrew from South Fork Association. Bought lot for a parsonage 1920. Parsonage completed)

F. M. Huggins.....November 14, 1915 .....March 25, 1920
G. H. Johnson.....May 23, 1920 .....June 6, 1922
L. R. Pruett.....Supply ..... Supply
S. R. Bass.....April 23, 1923 .....June 6, 1928—Death
L. R. Pruett.....Supply ..... Supply
R. A. Kelley.....December 2, 1928, .....Present Pastor

(Reorganized church and graded Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Rotation of Deacons. Many study courses. Built large annex for the growing Sunday School.)





## BESSEMER CITY BAPTIST CHURCH

By John R. Rollins

The town of Bessemer City, N. C. is located in the western part of Gaston county and was chartered in the year of 1892. It was nothing more than a saw mill and a lumber plant at that time, however, shortly after the building which housed the Southern Cotton Mills (Now known as the Osage Mills) was erected, but by some reason this mill did not assume full operation until the year 1896.

Not being originally Baptist, naturally there were a few Baptist in this locality, however such men as Rev. Monroe Bridges made appointment and preached in the new village, using the vacant mill building to hold the preaching services, but later was kindly accorded the privilege of using the new Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which was accepted.

Rev. Elam, an aged Baptist minister from Cleveland County, would preach at intervals, also Rev. A. M. Ross a young minister, then pastor of the First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain began to do a little Missionary work in this new field, as the results of the labor of these men, and a few Baptist who had moved in, the Bessemer City Baptist Church was organized in the early part of the year 1897.

Rev. A. M. Ross was chosen pastor, giving the Church one Sunday each month with two services, one morning and one evening, and receiving an annual salary of $125.00. Of this amount the State Mission Board appropriated $60.00—the remainder, $65.00 to be raised by the Church.

The church continued the use of the Methodist Church building as a place of worship until the latter part of the year 1898, when the place of meeting was changed to the Methodist Protestant Church.

The first officers were as follows: Deacons, G. A. Bumgardner, J. C. Odell, Luther Devine and J. W. Williams; Church Clerk, J. C. Odell.

The Baptist seeing the need of a house of their own in which to worship, began to lay plans for the erection of a church building, in 1899 or 1900 a lot was secured as a building site. Two elderly sisters by the name of Herring, then living five miles north of town, donated some saw timber which was standing in the woods. This timber was cut by free volunteer labor, one of whom was the pastor, Rev. A. M. Ross, who also helped haul the lumber to the Church lot.

Before the first load of lumber was unloaded Brother Ross and the Brother with him uncovered their heads thanking God, and invoking His blessings on the work. However, Brother Ross did not finish the work. He felt that he should pursue his studies and preparations further, so he resigned and entered the Seminary at Louisville, Ky., shortly afterwards.

Rev. D. F. Putnam accepted a call to succeed Brother Ross and took charge of the work with the beginning of the year 1901. Immediately he continued the building program and in May following the foundations of the New Church building was laid, and in August, three months later, the congregation was worshiping in the new building. Only God knows the sacrifices made by the pastor and his little flock in those early days, and only those of us who took part in the work know of the joy there was in it. The church began to grow, the Lord was with us in a marvelous way and in less than two years from the time the foundation was laid, the building was completely paid for, and dedicated in April 1903, the dedicatorial sermon being preached by Dr. Livingston Johnson, who at that time was secretary of the State Mission Board.

Brother Putnam was a zealous man of God, declaring the whole truth of the Word without apologies. As a result, many were converted and baptized, there were great revivals and many were saved. not in the revival only, but almost at every service there would be some to baptize.

Soon after moving into the new building a Sunday School was organized, with R. C. Hawkins chosen as Superintendent.

Rev. Putnam served as pastor for four years and was succeeded by Rev. J. C. Gillespie who also was a beloved man of God, who served in an exceptionable manner until October 1906. The next pastor was Rev. J. J. Beach who began his work in January 1907—a good preacher and a successful pastor taking up where others left off and the church went forward under his leadership.

Rev. Beach was a man of the aggressive, militant type. As the church building was a frame structure of the single room type, an additional wing or room was installed to accommodate the fast growing Sunday School. The following September of 1907 the Kings Mountain Association met with this church.

The next pastor was Rev. L. M. Hobbs who served the church from November 1910 to October 1912. While has term of pastorate was not marked with unusual events the church continued to make steady progress under his leadership.

Next came Rev. D. F. Helms, beginning his pastorate in December





1912, and continuing until October 1916, a man greatly loved by his members and people generally. The church was without a pastor for some months, then Rev. D. F. Putman became pastor the second time. Another Sunday School room was added to the building. Rev. D. F. Putman offered his resignation to become effective in November 1918, but was unable to continue the pastorate until that time on acount of all church services being suspended in October 1918 by reason of an epidemic of Influenza.

Rev. A. H. Sims began the following November, 1918, and continued until May 1919, with Rev. C. A. Rhyne following, who began his work in June 1919. The church seemed to take on new life both in Spiritual and financial ways. All outstanding debts were paid, the preaching services went from two Sundays per month to full time, and a pastor's home was erected and paid for. Rev. Rhyne, however, left the church in September, 1920, and was followed by Rev. W. W. Williams. Through the efforts of this man and his wife the work of the church was thoroughly organized, with the Sunday School, Woman's Missionary Society and Auxiliaries being put on a systematic basis.

The church was crowded at each service, the Sunday School having no room to expand and the situation burdened the Pastor and the people. The need for a larger building was great, but the way was dark, with no visable means in prospect for such an undertaking. However on Sunday morning June 12, 1921, pastor Williams came into the pulpit and stated that the Lord had laid a great burden on his heart. He then made known how he had just spent a sleepless night and how the Lord had called him to lead his people in the building of a new house of worship. He announced his text from Exodus 14:15. "Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward" Psalm 127:1 "Except the Lord build the house they labor in vain that build it." He said it must be the work of faith and could not be done apart from God. After the sermon more than $2,000.00 was pledged, plans were drawn and on September 20, 1921, the first dirt was broken. It was inspiring to see a hundred or more people gathered for that early morning service. Just as the sun was rising the pastor threw the first shovel of earth from the foundation, then others until everyone had his turn—even the women threw out shovels of dirt, until quite an excavation was made. Then a fervent prayer was made asking God's blessings upon the work and workers, and afterwards each morning the pastor would gather the workers together and offer prayer in behalf of the work.

The corner stone was laid in May 1922, with fitting ceremonies, climaxed with a wonderful address by Dr. Luther Little.

Rev. Williams was succeeded by Rev. J. L. Teague who took charge as pastor the latter part of the year 1924. Mr. Teague was an orthodox and fundamental preacher, and endowed with extremely good judgement and ability, leading the work on in a safe and effectual manner. He was succeeded by Rev. Frank L. Snider March 1928. Mr. Snider being a young man full of pep and enthusiasm, stirred the church to a high point of interest. However, he resigned July 1929, and was followed by Dr. C. J. Black, in August 1929, who served until April 1934. Dr. Black, a preacher of the old school did much in the way of organizing and putting every phase of the Church's activities on a systematic basis. Dr. Black was followed by J. W. Weston, a young ministerial student, who was called only as a supply pastor for a period of four months.

The present pastor, Rev. J. Clyde Yates, began his work as a pastor January 1, 1935, with a bright outlook for the church under his ministry.

This church is considered fortunate for having had such an array of noble strong men for pastors. Attention is called also to the Sunday School Superintendents—Such men as: R. C. Hawkins, H. W. Clark, E. C. Wilson, S. S. Wells, W. E. Hull, A. S. Ballard, A. H. Mitchem, S. J. Poteet, J. B. Keeter, A. F. Briggs, J. L. Grant, A. W. Kincaid and H. L. Fowler, with T. N. Reeves now Superintendent-elect, the first five named Superintendents on this list have already passed on to their reward.

The Lord has been with this Church. Many times His presence has been manifested, many have been the refreshing seasons from His presence, and the things that go to bring encouragement to His people, yet all has not been sunshine. Often the clouds have seemingly lowered to obscure the horizon and burdens become heavy, almost to the point to invoke despair, still there are those who stand loyally by, and refuse to give up, knowing that the Lord, the great Head of the church, has promised His presence always.





## HISTORY OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Gastonia, N. C.

The Bethel Baptist Church was organized September 26, 1926 by the Marietta Street Baptist Church and Calvary Baptist Church of South Gastonia. H. W. Baucom, who was at the time a licensed minister, from the Marietta Street church and W. T. Stowe, a member of the Calvary church, came to the Ragan community and found M. L. Capps, M. P. Bell and other church workers. These men saw the need of a Sunday school or some kind of religious worship, so they organized a Union Sunday School. This Sunday School, with W. T. Stowe as Superintendent, and M. L. Capps as Sunday School teacher, began to grow in church members from different churches and surrounding country. The Marietta Street Church saw the need of a church at the Ragan village and then decided with the Calvary church to organize a Baptist Church.

The meeting was called by H. W. Baucom who also at the meeting was elected supply pastor. The counsel of the meeting was M. L. Barnes, pastor of Calvary church, who was elected Chairman, J. M. Fagann, Secretary, Rev. P. A. Underwood, pastor at the Marietta St. church, J. S. Hawkins, H. R. Wilkins, Ed. Powell, and A. L. Cline, deacons, Rev. P. S. Barker, J. E. C. Ford, deacon, and W S. Hawkins. These men were the council for the organization. The church was organized and called Bethel because their Sunday School at that time was about Bethel. The church started with twenty-seven members, from these members they elected five deacons,, M. L. Capps, W. T. Stowe, M. P. Bell, L. R. Holland and P. A. Allen. M. L. Capps was elected chairman of the board of deacons when the church was organized and is still serving as chairman. M. P. Bell and L. R. Holland are still on the board serving faithfully. Other deacons that have been ordained by the church are, I. E. Campbell, Ed. Wall, Z. C. Tate, Lee Costner and Oscar Costner. The church has, at times, looked like it was going to be abandoned on account of members moving away, but with the faith of Rev. Baucom, M. L. Capps and the Lord's will the church survived. Rev. Baucom was pastor of the church eight years. During his ministry the church grew from twenty-seven members to eighty-six, making a total gain of fifty-nine members, his greatest success was in 1931 when he conducted a revival and baptized 30 candidates. Rev. Baucom was ordained by the Marietta Street church and the Calvary church at Bethel church and was liked by all his members.

In 1934 he resigned because he had a call to other fields and at that time the church called Blanchard Horne from Kings Moun-

tain, Macedonia Baptist Church. Blanchard Horne was one of the first candidates to be baptized when the church was organized and was baptized by P. A. Underwood at the Marietta Street church. A short while later he moved to Kings Mountain and joined the Macedonia church and became a minister and was ordained by that church. Since his ministry at Bethel the church has gained eleven members making a total of ninety-seven. Rev. Horne was baptized at the Marietta Street church and baptized his first candidate at that church about eight years after he was baptized. Although the church has not gained so much in membership it has been revived and is now one of the livliest churches that can be found. Although the people regretted seeing Rev. Baucom leave, they are glad to have Rev. Horne for their pastor. They received a blessing from the Lord was laid at the foundation of the church. The church has always held from two to four revivals a year and is trying to cooperate with the Baptist Association in every way.

BLANCHARD HORNE, Moderator

ED WALL, Church Clerk





## BRUINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Bruington is one of the oldest Baptist Churches in this section of North Carolina. The first Baptist preaching in this county seems to have been done at Spencer Mt., then at Long Creek next at Hebron which was then located on the Catawba River at Abernathy's Ferry, and then came Bruington which was originally located to the right of the highway leading from Stanley to Mount Holly, not so far from the highway and about half way between the towns. Preaching was first begun here by Rev. R. B. Jones who was at that time pastor of the First Baptist church, Charlotte. The church seems to have been organized sometime during the latter part of 1853. The old minutes begin with October 1853. It was organized with sixty members. It seems to have been organized in the home of Ezekiel West who proved to be a friend indeed at this time. A small log house 20x20 was built on a lot given by Mr. West, and Robert B. Jones was called to serve as the first pastor. Elder A. J. Cansler followed him, then came the following: E. A. Poe, T. W. Upton, who had the church moved to the forks of the road just east of Stanley where the service station of Mr. P. C. Fox now stands; and then came Rev. J. A. Hoyle who was instrumental in moving the church to its present location. After Hoyle came J. M. Bridges, D. P. Bridges, J. F. Morris, Jas. Heavener, J. D. Bowen, P. H. Pernell, J. T. Newton, Charles W. Payseur, I, T, Newton, D. E. Vipperman, Robert L. Smith, W. B. McClure, G. P. Abernathy, W. W. Rimmer, Hoyle Love, O. W. Triplett, W. T. Baucom, and C. J. Black, the present pastor.

Bruington has sent out two good churches, Hickory Grove and Fellowship, now Belmont First. She has sent out two active preachers, R. L. Smith and Ellis Morris, possibly others we do not know of.

Bruington has had three houses of worship. The first was a small log house, then the log house with an additional framed end built to it. To this a brush arbor was added. A nice framed building was erected when it was moved to Stanley. This served for a number of years and was finally replaced with a nice brick building, the present house of worship. The church owns a nice seven room parsonage near the church house.

Bruington has its peculiar characteristics. The people are plain and do not like much formality. It has a most excellent choir that takes much delight in singing. Its greatest days are before it.

## HISTORY OF CENTER VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

After the organization of the Acme Mill, it was seen that a Baptist Church was needed at North Belmont. Accordingly, the Executive Committee of the Association appointed the following Brethren to look after the situation: Rev. G. H. Johnson, Rev. R. G. Mace and W. J. Francis. A Sunday School was organized in one of the mill houses in the spring of 1921. Open air services were begun June 7, 1921, by Rev. G. H. Johnson, pastor, First Baptist Church, Belmont. In August of the same year, Brethren Johnson and Mace held a meeting under a tent in the grove back of the house now occupied by E. S. Auten. It was at the close of this meeting that it was decided to organize a Baptist Church. A. presbytery, consisting of Rev. G. H. Johnson, Rev. D. W. Thompson, Rev. R. G. Mace, Rev. C. L. Taylor and Rev. A. E. Teague, with deacons from the First Baptist Church and the East Baptist Church, Belmont, was called to meet August 14, 1921. On this date the church was organized with 37 members, and on October 18, 1921, the church was received into the Gaston County Association with a membership of 40.

The following were listed as charter members of the church: E. S. Auten, Mrs. E. S. Auten, J. J. Duncan, Mrs. J. J. Duncan, Sylvester Duncan, W. B. Duncan, Wrs. W. B. Duncan, R. L. Long, Mrs. R. L. Long, Hattie Heffner (Mrs. Hoey), Mary Heffner (Deceased), Rosa Lybran, Oscar Lybran, Mrs. Ola Lee, Mrs. Mollie Hermes, A. G. Lee, Will Hermes, L. B. Farrell, Mrs. L. B. Farrell, Moody Bush, Mary Stilwell, C. A. Helmns, Mrs. C. A. Helmns, Mark Skidmore, Mrs. Mark Skidmore, Mrs. Sallie Roper, Henry Roper, H. C. Murphy, Mrs. H. C. Murphy, J. W. Raines, Sloan Cherry, Mrs. Sloan Cherry, C. P. Abernathy, Mrs. C. P. Abernathy, Edith Abernathy (Mrs. Parnell), Ethel Abernathy (Mrs. Cherry), Mrs. J. W. Raines.

Rev. A. E. Teague was called as the first pastor in August 1921 and served as pastor until October 1922. During the summer of 1921, the chuch built a house in the Acme Mill village. The chuch moved from the tent to this building. During Brother Teague's pastorate, the present church site, of about an acre, was bought from R. H. Thomas for $500, Mr. Thomas giving $150, making the cost to the church $350. Church membership was increased to 68.

Rev. A. R. Holland was called as Pastor January 28, 1923. In 1923 a house was built at the cost of $2,000 to be used for the church, and converted into a parsonage. This is the house now occupied by the pastor. In 1924 another house was built for a parsonage and





was later sold to the Acme Mill Company. The Tabernacle was built in the summer and fall of 1926 at the cost of $4,100. The pastor then moved into the present parsonage, hitherto used by the church. Brother Holland resigned in the summer of 1927. During his pastorate there was a large growth in membership.

Rev. Noah was called pastor in the fall of 1927 and served nearly two years, leaving in the summer of 1929.

Rev. A. T. Cain's pastorate began in the summer of 1929. During his pastorate the Tabernacle was remodeled into the general shape of the present building.

After the resignation of Brother Cain, Rev. R. W. James served as supply until July 1931.

Rev. F. M. Huggins began his work as pastor, July 5, 1931. Durthe present pastorate 249 additions have been made to the church, with loss by death, letter, erasure and exclusion of 104, making a net gain of 145 members. 123 of these have been received by baptism. The church building has been greatly improved, the yard graded, retaining rock wall built and walks provided, and also shrubbery planted. The church debt has been reduced to $4,435. Sunday School has been departmentalized and B. T. U. and W. M. S. strengthened.

During the 13 years of the history of the church $34,067.36 has been raised for local support and $2,305.60 for missions and benevolence. Baptisms for this period were 449. The present membership is 414. The work is encouraging. Our plans are to finish the building, pay our debts, do what we can for missions and push forward in our regular church program.

## CHERRYVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

By David P. Dellinger

The Cherryville Baptist Church was organized in the old Methodist Episcopal church building on Church Street in Cherryville, N. C., on the third Sunday in June, 1893. At the constitution of the church a presbytery was formed by Rev. T. Bright, Rev. M. H. Moss, and deacons and brethren from Mount Zion, Waco, and Shady Grove Baptist churches.

It is remembered that Rev. T. Bright was made moderator of the meeting and S. L. Dellinger was clerk to the body. The following members were present: D. K. Tate, T. J. Black, Clarence Tate, Will Tate, D. W. Moss, W. G. Stroup, Wesley Ross, Alfred Stroup, Mrs. Hettie Black, Mrs. Elizabeth Tate, Ollie Mae Tate, Mrs. W. G. Stroup, Sallie D. Black, Annie Black, Ibbey Black, Barbara Dellinger, Genelieu Quinn, Flora Delvaux, Mrs. Delvaux, Maggie Ross, Sarah Ross, Amantha Ledbetter, Clara Spake and Amby Hanes.

At the organization meeting the usual form Articles of Faith and System of Church Government was adopted.

Rev. T. Bright as the first pastor contracted, or arranged for by donation, a lot for the construction of the first church building. Henry Summit, perhaps the most prominent citizen in Cherryville at this time, donated this property to the church, it being near the lot on which the present dwelling house of J. W. Kendrick is situated on North Mountain Street, the deed being dated November 9, 1893. On August 14, 1894, Rev. G. M. Webb, father of Federal Judge, E. Y. Webb then pastor of this church exchanged the North Mountain Street lot for the present site. This lot containing one acre of land was deeded to J. M. C. Stroup, Ben Kendrick and T. J. Black, Trustees.

On March 14, 1898 Joseph Black and wife Frances Black made a deed for one acre of land including the Black Cemetery to the same Trustees for the use and benefit of the church, as the Baptist Cemetery. In his will the said Joseph Black bequeathed another acre of land to the church thus doubling the acreage of the cemetery. The present church site was deeded to the organization by Joseph Black and wife, Frances Black.

The building committee for the first church was elected September 8, 1894, and composed of the following members: C. P. Stroup, John M. C. Stroup, W. G. Stroup, D. K. Tate, David Moss, Benja Black and Samuel Black. The first building was a frame structure





about 40x65 feet with 18 foot story. For the most part the material for this building was donated by members and friends of the church and practically all the work done in the same way.

The actual construction work of the present church building was begun June 14, 1920. The excavation work done and practically completed under the direction of the pastor, Rev. D. F. Putnam. It was thought the church should build a suitable building for about $30,000.00. The first call for subscriptions was made June 29, 1919, following a strong sermon by Rev. Walter N. Johnson, secretary of the State Mission Board, Raleigh, N. C., at which time $16,000.00 was subscribed. The present building when completed, taking into consideration all labor and material donated, cost about $80,000.00. From June 12, 1920 until August 7, 1921, during the construction period of the church, services were held regularly in the Pythian Hall, third floor of the First National Bank Building. The new church building was first occupied August 7, 1921, and during the day beginning at sunrise, there were seven services conducted.

The record shows that when the first church was completed there was a debt of $2.55 against the property. Upon the completion of the present building there was a debt of approximately $30,000.00 which has been reduced to $10,000.00. A total of around $50,000.00 having been paid within two years.

For about ten years this church was partially supported by the State Mission Board, in amounts ranging from $75.00 to $150.00 per year for a month to twice a month services. The membership has ranged from 24 at the beginning to an average of around 500 for the past several years. Contributions to the objects of the Convention have increased in proportion to the membership.

The pastorates were as follows: T. Bright, G. M. Webb, D. F. Putnam, C. W. Paseur, C. T. Tew, G. W. Rollins, C. M. Robinson, D. F. Putnam, J. J. Beach and David E. Bobbitt. Clerks as follows: W. G. Stroup, W. J. T. Styers, R. F. Putnam, David P. Dellinger, R. J. Dellinger, W. J. T. Styers, E. L. McGinnas, J. H. Trott, David P. Dellinger, H. H. Allen and David P. Dellinger.

This church was a member of the Kings Mountain Baptist Association until November 1919. In September 1901 it entertained said Association in a 3-day meeting with Rev. D. F. Putman pastor-host. On October 18, 1921 it entertained the Gaston County Baptist Association, having joined the said Association in 1919, with Rev. D. F. Putnam pastor-host, during his second pastorate. Dr. Putman served as pastor for more than 12 years that being much the longest pastorate. To his untiring efforts more than any in-

dividual of group of individuals the church is indebted for the construction of the present splendid building. The highest credit and praise is entended Rev. G. M. Webb, pioneer preacher, who founded and built the first church and led it even into a strong organization with its house of worship fully paid for and adquate for many years.





## HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CRAMERTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Cramerton Baptist Church was organized October 9 1910, with 25 members. Rev. C. M. Erwin was the organizer, and the first pastor of the church. For more than ten years the church had no building of its own, but maintained worship in the school house, and in the theater building. In 1921 a new brick, modern church building was constructed by Mr. Stuart W. Cramer, and presented gratis by him to the Baptist congregation. The new building was dedicated August, 1921. The name of the church was changed from Mayworth to Cramerton Baptist Church in September 1921.

The following ministers have served as pastors of the church: Rev. C. M. Erwin, 1910-'12; Rev. C. A. Caldwell, 1913-'14; Rev. W. E. Wilson, 1915; Rev. D. E. Vipperman, 1916; Rev J. H. Vipperman, 1917-'18; Rev. C. L. Taylor, 1919-'20; Rev J. P. Bennett, 1921-'22; Rev. J. M. Trogdon, 1923-'25; Rev. E. V. Hudson, 1926 to the present.

During the first decade the church was very weak, and experienced difficulties in maintaining services in any degree of regularity. In fact, there was a time when it ceased to function, the organization being allowed to lapse. However, it was reorganized in 1916, and has grown ever since. In 1918 the church went from a quarter time church to a half-time one. In 1921 it was decided to have full time.

For the first ten years of its history there was but little progress. But it has always been a supporter of the cause of missions, and the orphanage. These gifts were small, but it kept alive the spirit. Also there has been maintained a good Sunday School from the first. The W. M. U. work was begun in 1918, and the training unions undertook their work in 1924. These organizations were small and at times all but died. But somehow, they were kept going.

During the last decade the church has made splendid progress. In 1926 the membership was 212; 1935 it is 594. The offering to missions have increased from $350 in 1925 to $1,408 in 1935. In 1925 the enrollment of the Sunday school was 389; in 1935 it is 661. In 1925 there was but one union for young people, with a membership of 20; now there are 8 unions with an enrollment of 161. In 1925 there was but one organization for the women, with a membership of 18; now there are 6 strong auxiliaries, and a W. M. S., with a total membership of 196. There has been maintained an average of six study courses annually in all departments of the church over a period of nine years.

## HISTORY OF THE DALLAS BAPTIST CHURCH

The Dallas Baptist Chuch was organixed September 25, 1879, J. H. Booth, S. Head, James Brumfield and Dr. T. H. Pritchard constituting the Presbytery, with the following as organized members: E. H. Withers, J. R. Lewis, Mrs. Frank Jarrett, Robert Holland, A. A. Rhyne, L. P. Stowe, Mrs. L. P. Stowe, Mrs. Julia Lawing, Mrs. Margaret Farrar, E. Monroe Smith, Mrs. Isabella Ford, Mrs. Sophia Groner, Mrs. Margaret Withers, Mrs. A. A. Rhyne and Mrs. Martha J. Moore.

Among the first members received by letter or baptism after the organization were J. D. Moore, J. D. Brumfield, Mrs. S. J. Floyd, Mrs. C. A. Strain, J. C. Lewis, Miss Maggie Dobson, Miss M. Lawing and Mrs. Monroe Smith.

During the first year a building, commodious and substantial for that period, was erected.

J. H. Booth was the first pastor, serving from December 1879 to August 1881. For about one year following August 1881 the church was without a regular pastor. The second pastor was A. L. Strough, who served the church from 1882 to 1885.

Among others who connected themselves to this church in the early eighties, and who attained local prominence in Baptist affairs were: Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Brown, Mrs. L. M. Hoffman and Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Durham and Mrs. Cornelia Morris.

From 1885 to 1887 the church was again without a regular pastor, but in October of the latter year J. A. White, from South Carolina, was called as the third pastor. In 1889 F. C. Hickson came to the church as its fourth pastor, serving four years, and was succeeded in 1891 by E. F. Jones who in turn was succeeded in 1897 by A. M. Ross.

Among the younger members at this time who were instrumental in forwarding the Baptist cause in the vicinity were Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Stowe, Mrs. O. F. Mason and Forrest Floyd.

J. D. Moore conducted a small Sunday School for four or five years following the organization of the church, but the first record of a Sunday School dates from July 1885. This was a union rather than a Baptist School as the list of teachers reveal the names of members of other denominations, and it existed only two or three years. The first attempt to organize a Baptist Sunday School was in 1890, the following constituting the officers and teachers: S. D. Brown, C. S. Stowe, J. R. Lewis, R. J. Durham, Mrs. O. F. Mason





and Mrs. L. M. Hoffman. The attendance was small, running from twenty to thirty.

Up to this time, and for ten years thereafter, the Baptist cause in Dallas had a hard struggle to survive, much less to grow. Too much praise cannot be given to the ever faithful remnant who remained true and loyal through it all. This effort at conducting a Sunday School also failed after a few years, so that by 1895 another reorganization was necessary. This time the interested ones were from among the same faithful few: S. D. Brown, J. R. Lewis, Forest Floyd, C. S. Stowe and Mrs. L. M. Hoffman This school continued until the Spring of 1897 when, in keeping with the three which preceded it, also met its demise. However, in the latter part of the same year, the ever courageous and undaunted few, always anxious to see the cause prosper, seemed to have got a running start and successfully pulled over the hill. From the date of this, the third reorganization, a Baptist Sunday School has been conducted continuously and, in a measure, successfully.

While yet a small, weak and struggling congregation, in December 1898, J. L. Vipperman came to the Church as a young pastor. Being of a lovable and saintly disposition he soon won the affections of the entire membership. His wonderful knowledge of the Scriptures, his fervent and bold manner of preaching seemed to have instilled new life into the congregation. From the encouragement of his early efforts the church began upon a new era. The growth has been steady and substantial from that date.

In 1902 Brother Vipperman removed to Wilmington, N. C., the church being under the leadership of W. N. Flanders the following year, who was succeeded in 1904 by J. W. Watson.

In the latter part of 1904 J L. Vipperman came for the second time as pastor and remained until September 1909.

J. L. Shinn was pastor from October 1909 to March 1911, being succeeded by G. C. Epps, who served until October 1912.

In November 1912 there came to this church as pastor that unassuming, pious, consecrated Christian gentleman, I. T. Newton, who fed the congregation on the purest sort of spiritual food and successfully lead the flock to higher and nobler things.

In September 1917, J. L. Vipperman, for the third time became pastor, serving until October 1923.

W. T. Baucom succeeded J. L. Vipperman as pastor. During his pastorate the financial system of the church was changed so that a triple check could be made on all finances. The Sunday School of the church has remained standard since, becoming standard about

seven years ago. The church has gained more than 80 per cent under his leadership. Rev. Baucom left the church late in 1934 after giving twelve years faithful service.

Rev. Hubert Huggins became pastor of the church in June 1935. Under his leadership and with a fine spirit of cooperation among the membership may the Dallas Baptist Church accomplish that for which it was founded.





## CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Calvary Baptist Church is located three miles south of Gastonia, on the York Road, in the heart of one of Gaston County's best textile centers. The population of the various villages nearby is something near 3,500 and is decidedly Baptist, there being somewhere around 60 per cent who either belong to the Baptist churches about us or who would join with us if they were connected with any church.

Calvary Church was organized on Sunday afternoon March 21, at 3:00, a Presbytery being called to meet at that hour for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. Those present and constituting the presbytery were: Rev. W. C. Barrett, Rev. W. A. Hough, Rev. C. A. Caldwell, Rev. M. L. Barnes and Rev. G. P. Abernethy and the following deacons: Joe S. Wray, W. J. Clifford, W. P. Glover, J. L. Waters, J. S. Hawkins, L. G. Redding, M. A. Harwell, W. Lee Smith, C. L. Conrad, Grier McAllister, E. A. Hurley, and A. J. Saunders. The presbytery organized by electing Rev. G. P. Abernethy as Moderator and Rev. M. L. Barnes as Secretary.

The following persons presented themselves for membership in the new organization: W. P. Lee, W. A. Marley, Mrs. W. A. Marley, R. J. Lyda, Mrs. R. J. Lyda, Erskine Lyda, O. J. Lyda, Mrs. O. J Lyda, J. O. Epps, Mrs. J. O. Epps, Lula Hovis, Virginia Hovis, Earl Willing, C. A. Sparks, Mrs. C. A. Sparks, Mrs. Alice Johnston, Ray Marley, Florence Bridges, Preston Bridges, H. M. Childress, Mrs. H. M. Childress, M. P. Harris, Mrs. M. P. Harris, Fred Harris, Horace Harris, D. L. Keller, Mrs. D. L. Keller, Lillian Hamilton, Clyde Marley.

A motion was made and carried that the church be organized and that the Articles of Faith by Pendleton be adopted. M. L. Barnes was called to the pastorate and motion was then made by Rev. W. C Barrett that the newly organized church be recognized and accepted as a regularly constituted Baptist Church. After the passage of this motion the body adjourned with prayer by Rev. W. C. Barrett.

The first officers of the church were: Deacons, S. G. McAllister, Assistant S. S. Supt., E. A. Hurley, S. S. Sec., Miss Elsie Gardner, Treasurer of S. S., O. J. Lyda. Teachers: D. L. Keller, E. A Hurley, Mrs. S. P. Allen, Mrs. Doris Elmore, Mrs. M. L. Barnes, Mrs. W. A. Marley, Mrs. W. C. Barber. Pianist, Miss Blanche Pearson and Chorister F C. Patrick. W. A. Marley, Church Clerk and J. O. Epps, Church Treasurer.

The pastorate of M. L. Barnes was brought to a close on September 1, 1923. During his leadership the church went forward in

a great way. From a very small beginning the church grew during this time and all felt very keenly his going from us.

On September 23, 1923, Rev. T. P. Stanfield was called to the pastorate of our church and it was soon to be seen that there would be no less interest in the work. During his pastorate Rev. W. A. Hoffman, now pastor of Temple Baptist Church, Gastonia, was ordained to the work of the Ministry. Brother Hoffman was then a member of the Board of Deacons of Calvary Baptist Church and was a moving spirit among us. On November 15, 1925, Brother Stanfield resigned the work to become effective with December 1, 1925.

The Church extended a call on November 22, 1925, to Rev. J. M. Trogden, of Cramerton, to become pastor succeeding Brother Standfield and Brother Trogden began his work with us on December 1, 1925 and he continued his work with us until April 1, 1928 when his resignation was tendered the church.

Our next pastor was Rev. George W. Davis, now pastor of Marietta Street Baptist Church, who was called to be our leader on May 13, 1928. Brother Davis continued as our pastor for a little more than two years, resigning on September 6, 1930, to take effect sixty days later.

On January 4th. 1931, the church extended a call to Rev. J. A. Hudson, our present pastor, to become our leader and to serve the church for one-half of his time. It was soon seen that the work of our church was too great and by far too important to be content with preaching for half-time and within eight months time Brother Hudson was asked to give up his other work, then Marietta Street Baptist Church, and to devote his entire time to the work of Calvary Baptist Church.

This last move was one of the best our church has made as it was impossible to properly take care of the work with such great possibilities as ours with only one-half time preaching. Brother Hudson has proven himself a wise and capable leader for our people and the work has continued to grow under his leadership year by year. There is every prospect for a continuance of our growth under the present leadership.

Calvary Baptist Church has had many trying and extremely difficult experiences along its pathway. Chief among these being its building debt. We have a splendid brick structure with an auditorium seating capacity of about 450. The first floor is divided into class and departmental rooms. There are eleven separate classrooms and the Sunday School enrollment is now about 525. There is also





a splendidly appointed and well arranged parsonage on the Davis Park Road. The valuation of the properties are: Church Building and Grounds, $20,000.00, Parsonage, $2,500.00.

To look over our property and the community surrounding would be to have a feeling of pride but when we think of our failure at times to carry on as we should we are reminded too much of the things left undone to have a feeling of pride. We greatly need more equipment for Sunday School work and we know we shall never have these until we have sufficient faith in God to share with Him to the extent that all old obligations have been cleared.

God calls Calvary Baptist Church, and every individual within its number, to a great field that is "White unto harvest" and He does not ask us to undertake things impossible but they are nevertheless great. It is ours to answer, "Here am I, send me" and if we shall so answer our very best and happiest days are out before us.

## HISTORY OF EAST BAPTIST CHURCH

Gastonia, N. C.

In the year 1900 Rev. J. A. Hoyle began conducting religious services in the school building at the Ozark Mill. A few months later, June 23, 1901, what was known as The Second Baptist Church was organized with 39 members. Those entering the organization as charter members were as follows: J. A. White, Mrs. J. A. White, John White, Mrs. John White, Clyde White, Mrs. Lilly Bridges, J. A. B. L. Hurley, Mrs. J. A. B. L. Hurley, Miss Esther Hurley, Wm. Allison, Mrs. Wm. Allison, Miss Mattie Allison, Mrs. J. E. Parrish, Mrs. W. T. Rhyne, Ida Rhyne, Miss Kate Armstrong, Miss Bright Aker, Miss Sarah Cathey, Mrs. Alice Tritt, Mrs. L. L. Lee, Lizzie Rhyne, Mrs. Laban Smith, Miss Mary Smith, F. S. Stines, Mrs. F. S. Stines, Miss Rebecca Stines, Miss Ida May White, Luther Williams, Mrs. Luther Williams, G. W. Capps, Anderson Davis, Mrs. Anderson Davis, Miss Florence Davis. W. A. Lazenby, Esther Beachum, Nancy Beachum, Lucy Davis, J. B. Caldwell.

Rev. J. A. Hoyle was called as pastor. J. A. White was elected as treasurer and J. A. B. L. Hurley, church clerk. A committee composed of J. B. Caldwell, W. T. White and Etta White was appointed to solicit funds for the erection of a house of worship.

Just two months from the date of organization, Aug. 24th, definite steps taken to secure a lot for the church building. A site, strategically located on North Church street was secured at a purchase price of $225.00 and a frame was erected. W. T. Rhyne, J. A. B. L. Hurley, J. B. Caldwell, A. Davis and F. S. Stines were elected trustees.

During the first few years the church extended annual calls for a pastor, but in 1904 Rev. J. L. Vipperman was called to succeed brother Hoyle for an indefinite time.

On May 6, 1905, the name of the church was changed from Second Baptist Church to East Baptist Church. On the same date announcement was made that all indebtedness had been met and preparation was made to dedicate the house of worship. On July 2, 1905, all notes were burned and the dedicatory sermon was preached by the pastor, Rev. J. L. Vipperman. In September 1905 the church went from fourth time to half time preaching. In 1907, just six years from date of organization, the membership had grown from 39 to 248.

Following Brother Vipperman Rev. J. J. Beach accepted the work. It was during this pastorate the church received a vision of





the need of a larger and more adequate building in which to carry on the rapidly growing work. Preaching service went from half to full time and the membership grew to nearly four hundred in number.

Rev. J. W. Whitely began his work with us in February 1916. Soon afterwards plans were submitted and adopted for the erection of a beautiful auditorium and the remodeling of the old plant into educational facilities. The membership increased to more than 500 and other phases of the work advanced accordingly.

Brother Whitely was followed by Rev. T. H. King, who did a great work among us. During this pastorate the Flint-Groves church was organized in East Gastonia. About 75 letters were granted to this new organization.

In 1923 a call was extended to Rev. J. O. Fulbright. This pastorate was blessed with a number of responses to definite Christian work among the brethren. Brother J. S. Lazenby and Brother Hubert Huggins were licensed to preach. Brother Huggins has since been ordained and is now pastor at Dallas, N. C. Brethren D. W. V. Walters and Raymond Long were both licensed and ordained to the Gospel ministry. Brother Walters has been pastor at Ranlo for several years. Brother Long is now pastor in Charlotte.

In October 1927, the present pastor, Rev. T. L. Cashwell, accepted the work. During this pastorate a beautiful site was purchased on South Columbia street and a spacious parsonage erected. The old parsonage was sold and the amount applied on the new structure. The educational building has undergone many changes, adding class rooms and providing space for departmental work. The entire Sunday School has been reorganized and thoroughly graded. In September 1929 all the indebtedness against the church was raised and the present building was dedicated. The dedicatory sermon was preached by a former pastor, Rev. T. H. King.

## HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Gastonia, N. C.

The First Baptist Church was organized in 1876 with twenty-nine members enrolled. They worshipped for a while in a small one-room house that had been used previously by a colored woman for a restaurant. This building was near the spot where East Baptist Church now stands, not far from the Modena Cotton Mill. Previous to this organization, a Baptist Sunday School had been in existence for about a year, its sessions being held near, and later in the depot which at this time was located in East Gastonia.

When the C. & N. W. Ry. was built, business moved westward, and in 1862 the church began to meet in the Academy, which stood near the O. F. Mason residence on South Oakland St. For a number of years the church seemed to go down, but in 1885 it was reorganized, and a small building was erected on the corner of Long and Marietta Streets, on a lot donated by Rev. Sylvanus Head and wife. Rev. J. A. White was elected pastor, and upon his resignation Rev. F. C. Hickson served for half time. Rev. E. F. Jones was pastor from 1893 to 1896, at which time Rev. Charles H. Durham was called. The church grew rapidly and the Sunday School enrollment reached 416. Dr. W. F. Watson followed in 1899, and it was during his pastorate that the church was rebuilt on the same site at a cost of $7,000. While Dr. Watson was pastor, thirty-four members were dismissed to organize a Second Baptist Church, now East Baptist Church.

Rev. W. H. Reddish was called in 1903. Upon the death of Capt. J. D. Moore, who had been a moving spirit in the reorganization of the church, his widow, Mrs. Martha J. Moore, proposed to build a parsonage as a memorial to him if the church would furnish a lot. At this time the church purchased the lots where the present church building and parsonage now stand on Franklin Avenue and South Street at a cost of $7,000. The parsonage was built immediately (1908).

Rev. W. C. Barrett became pastor November 1, 1911. The first task which confronted him was paying for the lots which had been purchased. The church raised this money by sacrificial giving, and in April, 1914, the cancelled notes were burned before the congregation at a morning service.

Soon after the lots were paid for some of the members began to talk of building a church; however, most of them thought they were not able to build the kind of church they needed. One night,





in a deacons' meeting in 1917, Mr. H. B. Moore stated that he was carrying five thousand dollars in Building and Loan for the First Baptist Church to be used when the building of a new church was authorized. This stimulated the interest of those present and a new impetus was given to the enterprise. All began to think seriously and earnestly of building, and on a Sunday in June, 1918, pledges in Building and Loan were taken for the new church. Two hundred and eighteen shares were subscribed at that time, and it was voted to begin building in 1920. Because of the high price of building material and labor, construction was postponed and the contract was not given until October, 1921, and the work actually begun. The cornerstone was laid June 2, 1922 and on Aug. 12, 1923 the opening services were held in the new building with Dr. John E. White as speaker of the occasion. The church was formally dedicated Dec. 18, 1927.

A very important factor in the successful completion of the church was the enthusiasm and faithful work of the Ladies' Aid Society which was organized in 1919 with Mrs. H. B. Moore as president. After her service of six years, Mrs. O. F. Mason took up the work and continued until May, 1928. During this period of time the women of the church worked whole-heartedly, unsparing of their time or strength, with the result that they contributed to the church $10,000 cash, $10,000 in Building and Loan, the pipe organ, the carpet, a piano and furnishings for the Ladies' Parlor and kitchen, and in 1927 the chimes. The total of their gifts was more than $51,000, and along with this they had made their regular contributions to the 75 Million Campaign together with the rest of the church.

The development of the church was marked by securing an assistant to the pastor in 1921. Mr. H. O. Eisenhower, of Selma, Ala., was employed and served most acceptably and efficiently until his resignation in 1927. He was followed by Rev. Owen W. Moran, who served until January, 1929.

The Men's League was organized in 1922 with about 30 members. Its work was the beautifying of the church grounds and furnishing song books, sheet music, etc. for the Sunday School and church. It did good work for a number of years, and the fine planting of shrubbery near the church shows the results of their activity.

The Baptist State Convention met with this church in 1923. Great numbers were present but were well taken care of in the new building. Dinners were served in the basement of the church.

The young peoples' work (B.Y.B.U.) was organized by Mr. Bar-

rett, a Senior Union being formed in 1912, a Junior Union in 1920 and an Intermediate Union in 1922.

The Woman's Missionary Society was organized in 1902 with fifteen charter members and Mrs. W. F. Marshall as first president. She was followed after one year by Mrs. C. V. Blake, who served thirteen years. There are now more than 200 members, and all the Junior organizations are complete.

The Sunday School is an A-1 organization with all departments functioning in accordance with the requirements for a Standard S. S. set up by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In September, 1926, it was decided that the Board of Deacons should consist of twenty-one deacons and be divided into three groups. One group was to serve one year, one group two years, one group three years. Then each following year seven new deacons would be elected to take the place of those retiring.

Rev. W. C. Barrett resigned in September, 1927 and preached his last sermon here January 1, 1928 after sixteen years of service. Dr. B. A. Bowers was called from Broadway Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., and began his service the first Sunday in June, 1928.

During Dr. Bower's pastorate of seven years there have been 970 additions to the church. The prayer meeting service has been stressed and there is an unusually large attendance.

This church is one of four that led the state in gifts to the Cooperative Program last year. All things point to a continuation of the splendid growth and development of the church under the forward-looking guidance of our present pastor.





## HISTORY OF FLINT GROVES BAPTIST CHURCH

In spring of 1921, A. O. Clemmer and Mrs. J. L. Brackett were sent from the East Baptist Church to hold Sunday School for small children in this community.

In fall of 1921, T. H. King, who was pastor of East Baptist Church, called on C. J. Black to hold a revival meeting in Flint-Groves mill community.
called on C. J. Black to hold a revival meeting in Flint and Grove mill community.

In fall of 1922, Rev. T. H. King and Mrs. Beeler Moore organized a Sunday School in this community, and used the Public School Buildings. Rev. King preached one Sunday afternoon in each month through the summer months.

In fall of 1922, H. E. Waldrop began to preach two Sundays each month for the Baptist people of this community and fifty-one members of East Baptist Church asked for letters of dismission to organize a Baptist church at this place. On March 30, 1923 in the Flint Community Hall the Baptists of this community met and organized a Baptist Church. There were fifty-six charter members. V. M. Angley ,Mrs. V. M. Angley, A. M. Black, Mrs. A. M. Black, Mrs. A. C. Baker, Lester Baker, Mrs. Lester Baker, Clara Baker, Paul Baker, Pearl Baker, E A. Bradshaw, Mrs. Artee Bradshaw, E. N. Bradley, T. S. Clark, Mrs. T. S. Clark, Ida Clark, Flore Clark, Focian Clark, Theodore Clark, Forest Clark, William Cox, Mrs. W. R. Cox, Ruth Cox, Will Cloer, Mrs. Will Cloer, P. A. Cline, Mrs. P. A. Cline, C. B. Crook, Mrs. Etta Evans, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Elmore, S. A. Fort, Mrs. S. A. Fort, G. W. Hartsin, Gladys Hartsin, Mrs. Minnie Hedrick, Dan Keever, Mrs. Dan Keever, Mrs. Louise Kincaid, S. B. Laws, Mrs. S. B. Laws, Mrs. Lloyd Long, Mrs. Dan Lingerfelt, J. L. Lanier, Mrs. T. E. Nantby, L. B. Penley, Mrs. L. B. Penley, Mrs. L. J. Penley, M. T. Saunders, Mrs. M. T. Saunders, Mrs. L. H. Stowe, Fannie Stowe, Bertie Stowe, W. R. Williams, Mrs. W. R. Willams, L. A. Williams.

The Presbytery composed of the following: Rev. J. L. Vipperman, Chairman; Rev. C. G. Black, Clerk; Rev. W. M. Cook, Rev. H. E. Waldrop, Deacons J. L. Price, Van Fisher, of East Baptist Church, and W. H. Jenkins of Long Creek Memorial Baptist Church. Articles of Faith were read by J. L. Vipperman and Church Covenant was read by C. J. Black, and both were adopted.

The Presbytery then asked what name this Church was to have. It was named Flint Groves Baptist Church. The following

officers were elected: Rev. H. E. Waldrop, Pastor; S. B. Laws, Clerk; P. A. Cline, Treasurer. S. B. Laws, L. P. Baker, and L. B. Penley were elected Deacons. Ordination service was held in the Flint community Hall on April 26, 1923.

Rev. H. E. Waldrop was pastor from the Organization until September 24, 1923. Services were held in the public school building of the Flint and Groves Mills. During his pastorate the Deacons were elected as trustees. They bought three lots on which to build a church. These lots cost $1,200.00.

Rev. M. L. Barnes was pastor from September 30, 1923 to November 1, 1926. During his pastorate a building committee was elected to consider the cost and erection of a building. This committee was composed of J. L. Price, S. B. Laws, L. P. Baker, who employed J. E. C. Ford to erect a frame building 40 by 60 feet. Work was begun on March 24, 1924 and completed May 16, 1924. Also in August 1925 there was an addition built to the rear of the church for Sunday school rooms. The cost of these buildings was about $2,087.

Rev. J. W. Kesterson was pastor from December 5, 1926 to August 21, 1927.

Rev. A. A. Haggard was pastor from August 28, 1928 to May, 1929. During his pastorate two more lots were bought and an addition was built to the main Auditorium 50 by 50 feet. This was also built under the supervision of J. E. C. Ford. Cost of the lots and building was about $3,500.

Rev. B. F. Austin came to us October 6, 1929 and is our present pastor. The church has recently been brick veneered. The first brick was laid March 14, 1935. Work was finished March 30, 1935. The cost of this was $1,000.

The following compose the present Board of Deacons: W. D. Jenkins, A. L. Cline, J. F. Reep, T. E. Nantz, T. L. Bradshaw, M. R. Thomas, George Kale. Trustees are G. C. Hampton, T. E. Nantz, W. D. Jenkins.

Our present membership is 352.



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## HISTORY OF LORAY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. J. A. Hoyle began preaching in Arlington School house. He preached here for a year or more. He held some protracted meetings here. He then organized the church on June 4, 1905. The charter members were Julia Harry, Harriet Settlemeyer, Ida Pearson, Susan Scism, Lou Chaney, Carria Hoyle, Anna Grady, Nevada Nolen, M. F. Summy, Martha Fisher, Mrs. Sam Smith, Mrs. J. C. Smith, Mrs. M. L. McKensie, S. L. Smith, J. C. Smith, J. A. Hoyle, James Scism, E. C. Fisher, M. C. Mauney, R. L. Chaney, J. S. Hawkins, L. A. Reynolds, Mrs. L. A. Reynolds. The church was named West Franklin Avenue Baptist Church. Later its name was changed to Loray Baptist Church.

Brother J. A. Hoyle served the church as its first pastor for about three years. He built the present auditorium. He was followed by Rev. J. D. Moose who served for a little more than two years. The membership increased from 100 to 330. He was folowed by C. M. Robinson who served the church for two years. He paid off all debts, installed a heating system, equipped the church with new pews and painted the church building. He was folowed by Rev. A. T. Stoudenmire who served the church for fifteen months. He paid the church out of debt and built four Sunday school rooms. He was followed by Rev. G. P. Abernathy who served the church for five year and five months. He built several Sunday school rooms and built a six room pastorium. The membership was greatly enlarged during this patorate. He was followed by Rev. C. J. Black who served the church for a little more than four years finishing his work the first Sunday in January, 1925. During his pastorate the Sunday school was greatly enlarged becoming one of the largest in the Southern Baptist Convention at that time. Along with this the church building had to be enlarged to care for this school and the congregations for the preaching services. The B. T. U. was enlarged until there were four Unions—two senior, one Intermediate, and one Junior. The W. M. U. Work also grew until it was one of the largest in the Asosciation. Brother Black laid great stress on Evangelism and increased the membership beyond the 1,200 mark. He was followed by Rev. J. W. Whitley, the present pastor who has served the church for more than ten and one-half years. He inherited an indebtedness on the church of more than three thousand dollars. He also inherited a leaky roof. The roof was taken care of in his first meeting with his board of Deacons. The name of the church stood low in the credit list in the

city. Within the first year or so, under his leadership, the church paid off this indebtedness and made its name A-1. He at once lead the church in the installation of a modern heating system—one of the best in the city at a cost of $3,200. Four pianos were purchased to take care of the work. In September, 1925, he re-

**JULIUS W. WHITLEY, Ph. D.**
Who has led Loray Baptist Church for more than one-third of its existence.

organized the Sunday School putting it on a standard basis. It has attained the Standard of Excellence nearly every year since that time. In January, 1926, he re-organized the B. Y. P. U. department (now called B. T. U.) and greatly enlarged it At one time we had seventeen Unions in our organization—the largest in the State. This department is known far and wide for the good work it has done and is doing. He led the Church in changing its financial system. The all inclusive budget has been installed and has worked wonders in the financial side of our church. The depression and





the shutting down of Loray Mills put it to the test. It has come through with flying colors. The church does not owe anything. He also led the church in enlarging its board of deacons to twenty-one which serve as a rotating system. Each deacon serves for three years making the term of seven expire each year and these cannot be re-elected until they have been left off the Board for at least one year. This was one of the greatest forward steps ever taken by the church. The Board has been divided up into workable committees and each committee it supposed to do the work assigned to it. Under his leadership the church building has been remodeled to take care of a Standard Sunday school and B. T. U. work. The pastorium has also been remodeled. During his pastorate the Church sponsored the work in West Gostonia making it an arm of Loray Church. After eleven months of Sunday school, B. Y. P. U. work, and preaching services led by Rev. W. A. Hoffman, the Temple Church was organized. It is now a huskey youngster of more than 550 members with Rev. W. A. Hoffman leading the work there. During the pastorate of Brother G. P. Abernathy, Loray Church sponsored the work at Ranlo Station which resulted in the organization of Ranlo Church. Loray Church, during the pastorate of Brother Abernathy, cooperated with the First and East Baptist church in organizing and sustaining the South Marietta Baptist church.

During the present pastorate, the church has received 1,759 members. Between six and seven hundred of these have come by baptism. The church has also put an intensive training program both in the Sunday school and B. T. U. departments. It has received more awards than any church in the State. At one time more than 50 per cent. of its Sunday school officers and teachers were Gold Seal teachers. It has finished the diploma course in the New Sunday School Study Course. The information and inspiration imparted in this great training program carried on through these ten years has brought about a spirit of peace and harmony and enthusiasm that this church never knew before. As we look back over our history of 30 years, we would pause and say, "What hath God Wrought." Praise his name.

During these thirty years, Loray Baptist Church has given the following full-fledged Baptist preachers to the kingdom work: J. J. Waldrop, R. G. Short, Oscar Bolch, Odus McGinnis, L. G. Redding and Hubert Huggins.

## A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SOUTH MARIETTA STREET BAPTIST CHURCH

With a desire to expand its work for the Lord, the First Baptist Church, of Gastonia, organized a Sunday school in the spring of 1910 in the old Clara Mill School House on East Fifth Avenue, with Mr. J. L. Price as Superintendent. Mr. Price served for more than a year and was succeeded by Mr. Will Lanier, who held office for about a year and a half before he moved away, and was succeeded by Mr. T. C. Smith. During the first few years of its existence the school was moved to the Dunn Mill Hall on South Oakland Street.

Under three years' leadership of Mr. Smith, with the cooperation of his fellow-laborers, the school grew and prospered and became the nucleus around which was later organized the South Gastonia Baptist Church.

For more than three years the late Dr. W. C. Barrett, then pastor of the First Baptist Church, preached once each month in the Hall. For seven years he and other workers worked faithfully in this field without one cent for their services.

Dr. W. C. Barrett, Dr. J. W. Whitley, then pastor of the East Baptist Church and Rev. George P. Abernathy, then pastor of Loray Baptist Church, agreed to stand by the organization of the work in the South Gastonia territory (as the territory about the Hall was then known) and took the matter up with the State Mission Board of which Dr. Walt N. Johnson was then Secretary. After much correspondence an agreement was reached in which the Mission Board would pay fifty dollars a month toward the salary of a worker for the field. The three churches; First, East, and Loray, agreed to underwrite twenty-five dollars a month in addition to that which was given by the Mission Board, and in June, 1917, Rev. J. C. Kanipe, a Junior at Wake Forest, came on the field. Having held services for some time and made a survey of the field, he found the time was right for the work to go forward.

About the last of August, 1917, Rev. W. A. Hough was called to the field, and on October 7th a church was organized with 42 members (the number increased to 63 before the charter was closed) and without a dollar with which to build.

In January, 1918, the church bought a home on Sixth Avenue for its pastor, the late Col. C. B. Armstrong having paid much of the rent on the Pastor's home until that time. In March of the same year Col. Armstrong donated a lot just off Marietta and Eighth





Streets, and the little band of church members began planning and soon secured, through the assistance of Col. Armstrong, the material with which to build the house of worship.

A handsome new $18,000 house of worship was erected, and the first service was held in it on the first Sunday in March, 1919.

The church prospered under the leadership of the Rev. Mr. Hough, who resigned his work in March, 1921, leaving the church with 180 members. He was succeeded by Rev. W. P. McCarter, from the Second Baptist Church of Mount Airy, N. C.

In June, 1923, the church decided to make room for the ever increasing Sunday school department. An annex, 42 by 52, two stories high was built. This houses the Sunday school unto the present date (July, 1935). With the completed annex the church was valued at $32,000.

During this time the territory south of the church had grown so much that the territory in which the church was located was no longer thought of as South Gastonia, so the church voted to take on a new name, South Marietta Street Baptist Church being chosen. An evangelist coming to this church to hold a meeting explained to the conductor on the train that he was going to the South Gastonia Baptist Church, and was carried three miles south of the church. From there he had to hire a taxi to get back to the church. It is said that this incident had much to do with the changing of the church's name.

For four years the Rev. McCarter served as pastor, resigning in 1925. He was succeeded by the Rev. P. A. Underwood, who labored faithfully and successfully and left the church in November, 1926 with a graded Sunday school and a greater interest in the young people's work than ever before.

The Rev. J. H. Boggs was called to the pastorate from the Brookford Baptist Church. The Rev. Mr. Boggs served the church for a little more than two years and was succeeded by the Rev. J. A. Hudson who came to the church in March, 1929, and served through September, 1931. During the time between the resignation of the Rev. Mr. Boggs and the coming of the new pastor the services of the Rev. Mr. O. H. Bolch, then a ministerial student at Boiling Springs, was secured as supply pastor.

When the Rev. Mr. Hudson resigned the work of this church to become the full-time pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church in South Gastonia, which he was already pastoring part time, the Rev. George W. Davis was called to the Marietta Street Church, be-

ginning his work in the fall of 1931. At present Rev. Mr. Davis is serving the church and is witnessing a steady growth.

The church now has a membership of 423. It has a Sunday school department with an enrollment of 378 and an average attendance of 267. There are eight B. Y. P. U's. in the training service of the church including 1 Adult, I Senior, 2 Intermediates, 3 Junior, and 1 Story Hour Union. The membership of these Unions totals near a hundred. The W. M. S. has a membership of 20. In February, 1934 a special treasurer for the Sunday school was elected. Since that time, until June, 1935, a Sunday school debt of $284 was brought down to $170. Other finances of the church are being cared for in a greater way than heretofore.

Church officers are: George W. Davis, Pastor; George A. Howell, Chairman of Board of Deacons; Mrs. Beatrice McCarter, financial Secretary; George A. Howell, Treasurer; C. L. Rickman, Director of Music; Mrs. R. E. Withers, Pianist; W. L. Hawkins, Assistant Pianist; W. R. Glover, Church Clerk.

At a recent business meeting the rotating system of deaconships was decided upon and is to be inaugurated soon.

Officers of the Sunday school are: M. C. Sowell, Superintendent; E. W. Teague, Associate Superintendent; Robert F. Caldwell, General Secretary and Treasurer; E. W. Teague, Classification Officer; Mrs. Mae Champion, Superintendent Cradle Roll Department.

Officers of the B. T. U. are: C. S. Withers, General Director; Raymond F. Johnson, Associate Director; Miss Elizabeth Howell, General Secretary.





## HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Temple Baptist church, located in West Gastonia, began as a mission work fostered by the Loray Baptist Church. For some time there had been a growing impression of the need of more definite religious work in the extreme western part of Gastonia; there being a large number that were not attending any church. On the first Sunday in July, 1925 the first service was held in the Rhyne's chapel, a building owned by the Lutheran Church of Gastonia, this building having been rented for one year for this purpose. From the above date until June, 1926 regular preaching services were held each Sunday evening, and prayer meeting each Tuesday evening, and regular B. Y. P. U. work was carried on. A large number were received into the fellowship of the Loray church through these services. This work was carried on by W. Arthur Hoffman, who at that time was the assistant pastor of the Loray Baptist Church.

In the summer of 1926 the work and interest had so grown that it was generally felt that the time had arrived for the organization of a church. On Sunday afternoon, June 7, 1926, a council was called to meet for the purpose of organizing the church. The following ordained ministers were present and composed the council: J. W. Whitley, pastor of the Loray Baptist Church; C. A. Caldwell, pastor of the McAdenville Baptist Church; M. L. Barnes, of the Ranlo and Flint-Groves Baptist Churches; J. M. Trogden, of the Calvary Baptist Church; R. G. Short, of the Spencer Mountain Baptist Church; W. L. Walters, of the Mt. Zion Baptist Church; and W. Arthur Hoffman of the Loray Baptist Church; also a number of deacons from various Baptist churches were present. At this time the church was organized with one hundred and twenty-one charter members.

In the first business meeting of the newly organized church it was given the name of the Temple Baptist Church. The following oficers were elected: W. Arthur Hoffman, pastor; Otto Perry, church clerk; Arthur Russell, church treasurer; S. B. Laws, Sunday school superintendent.

The members of the first Board of Deacons were: S. B. Laws, Jake Hendrix, L. L. Willis, V. B. Shepherd, F. C. Plemmons and R. F. Harrill.

On the first Sunday in July, 1926, the church began a meeting in a school house owned by the Mutual Mills until arrangements could be made for a permanent meeting place The church met in this building until October, 1927, when the church bought from the

Lutheran Church the building that they had first used. This building was remodeled during the fall of 1928 to furnish adequate room for their growing work.

There has been an encouraged growth from the very beginning. At this time (1935) there is a membership of 585, with well organized Sunday school and B. T. U. departments. W. Arthur Hoffman is still serving as pastor; present members of the Board of Deacons: Lester Thornburg, L. L. Welis, T. N. Young, V. B. Shepherd, Frank Hedrick, Otto Perry, Robert Smith, Lester Broom, Walter Fox, Z. V. Dellinger, Hazel Dellinger, Joe Bryant.





## HARDIN BAPTIST CHURCH

Hardin Baptist Church was organized November 13, 1922.

**Charter Members**

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| J. M. Friday | Mrs. L. D. Lineberger |
| L. D. Lineberger | Mrs. J. M. Huggins |
| Mrs. Marion Hester | Miss Jennie Hester |
| John Torrence | Robert Lineberger |
| Mrs. Mraion Hester | Wesley Hester |
| Miss Maggie Eason | J. M. Huggins |
| Mrs. Foy Mull | Mrs. Wesley Hester |
| J. J. Friday | Mrs. W. C. Eason |
| Edgar Lineberger | Mrs. Jess Riddle |
| Lloyd Hooks | |

First Pastor Rev. C. A. Abernathy

The membership has grown from nineteen in 1922 to 142 in 1935.

The present brick church building was erected in 1928. Rev. H. W. Baucom is the present pastor.

## HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Hickory Grove was intended to be Bruington Baptist Church moved out on a good road. When old Bruington had about rotted down, so much so that it was about impossible to hold services in it, and the roads had either been shut up with fencing, or changed so that the old meeting place was inaccessible, fifty of the members decided that they would have a better meeting place. The church at this time just had seventy-six members, and at their regular conference fifty of these voted to give one another letters to organize another church. This left twenty-six members at Bruington, but the next time they held conference, they excluded the fifty who had taken letters, because they had voted to give them to one another. This matter was taken to the next session of the Association for settlement, and the Association decided that the new church was organized in regular form and order, and it was received as such into the Association.

The place selected by the fifty who took letters to organize was on the road leading from Stanley to McAdenville. A nice location was selected and the organization was arranged for accordingly. The brethren met April 12th, 1873 with the following presbytery to put them to work: Elders James Brumfield, E. A. Poe, Evander Davis, and J. H. McClure. Elder Brumfield was elected moderator, and Elder Poe, Clerk. The door of the church was opened and the fifty presented letters from Bruington, and after the Articles of Faith and the Rules of Order, with the Church Covenant, were read and adopted, they were declared a regular Baptist church. The church now has one hundred and sixty-three members. Elder James Brumfield was called at the organization to serve as pastor. He served until December 5th, 1874, when Elder George J. Wilke took charge and served until November 25th, 1876. Elder P. A. Whitner was called at this time and served until December 8th, 1877. Elder J. H. Booth was called to succeed Elder Whitner and served until December 11th, 1880. Elder John F. Morris was called to succeed Elder Booth and served in an acceptable manner for ten years. He began his pastorate December 11th, 1880, and served until July 26th, 1890. Elder Mr. Elam was called to succeed Elder J. F. Morris. He was called July 26th, 1890 and served until October 26th, 1890. Elder W. B. McCure was called for the next pastor October 26th, 1890 and served until July 26th, 1891. Elder J. F. Morris succeeded Elder McClure with a second term as pastor. He was called July 26th, 1891, and served until June 18th, 1892. Elder





John J. Payseur was the next pastor of Hickory Grove. He was called June 18th, 1892, and served until September 24th, 1892. Elder W. B. McClure served a second term, being called September 24th, 1892 and served until October 22nd, 1894. When Elder J. F. Morris was called to serve a third term as pastor. He was called October 22nd, 1894, and served until September 17th, 1898. Elder W. B. McClure was called to serve a third term September 17th, 1898 and served until November 2nd, 1901. He was followed by Elder B. L Hoke, who was called November 2nd, 1901, and served until October 4th, 1902. Elder W. B. McClure was called to serve a fourth term October 4th, 1902, and served until October 20th, 1912.

Rev. C. A. Caldwell was called to serve the church as pastor October 29th, 1912, and served until November 21st, 1914. He was succeeded by Rev. Walter E. Wilson, who was called immediately after Rev. Caldwell resigned and Rev. W. B. McClure was called for the fifth time as pastor of the Hickory Grove Church. He is pastor of the church at this time and will remain so as long as he is able to serve, or as long as he will serve the people.

Hickory Grove has a good house of worship with Sunday school rooms. The first house was built the next year after the church was organized. That was in 1874. The first house was used until 1905 when the second house was built. It took two years to complete it. It is the house they now worship in except that it has built two rooms to it since that time. The new house cost $1,200 and the new addition cost about $850. The house has been repainted recently.

Rev. W. B. McClure served as pastor from 1915 until his death in 1932. He was succeeded by T. H. Roach in 1932, and he is now our pastor. At the present time we have about 200 members. We have a good Sunday school and have preaching twice a month.

H. W. ABERNATHY, Clerk

## HIGH SHOALS BAPTIST CHURCH

High Shoals Baptist Church was organized on October 19, 1902, by Rev. J. A. Hoyle and Rev. W. B. McClure. The early records of the church have not been preserved and from 1903 to 1911 there is no record except that which is given from memory of members. The first house of worship was built in 1903 at a cost of $1,500.00. The membership is given as eighty-seven with the following acting as Trustees at the time: R. L. Chaney, W. W. Berry, W. L. Garrison, R. J. Garrison, and J. A Hoyle. Rev J. A. Hoyle was the first pastor of the church.

The church building was blown down by storm and was rebuilt in 1911 under the leadership of Rev. R. D. Caroll, then pastor of the church, at a cost of $1,405.38. At this time R. J. Dellinger was secretary and treasurer and the following were Deacons: J. E. Chronister, W. R. Rhyne, L. W. Hartgrove, E. L. Carpenter and W. A. Whitener. W. R. Rhyne was superintendent of the Sunday school.

Rev. R. D. Carroll resigned as pastor of the church on October 7, 1912 and Rev. G. P. Abernathy was called to succeed him and served the church until October 15, 1915. Rev. J. D. Moose was next called to the leadership of the church and served until September, 1918. Rev. J. J. Waldrop was next called and served the church as pastor for one year.

From 1919 until 1925 we are again without definite records. During this time the following served as pastors: W. W. Rimmer, R. G. Short, Albert Campbell, Ed Brown, J. B. Payne and C. C. Crogan.

Rev. Albert Campbell began his second pastorate with us on the first Sunday of August 1935 The following are now officers: S. A. Wililams, treasurer, O. H. Dillard, church clerk, J. S. McFadden, Sunday school superintendent. Deacons: C. P. Abernathy, Austin Ballew, O. H. Dillard, R. L. Vanoy, G. L. Moss and J. S. McFadden, chairman.

Number of members now on roll 182.

The mill management has recently changed and our people are looking forward to greater things for the Lord in our community.

O. H. DILLARD, Church Clerk.





## HULL'S GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

This church is located in Lincoln county, North Brook Township. Eleven miles from Lincolnton, N. C. on No. 27 Highway. Vale is the nearest P. O. which is four miles.

This church is called Hull's Grove, in honor of Bennie Hull, who was the first one to be buried there.

The church was organized September 11th, 1897. Rev. B. F. Newton, of Casar, N. C., was its first pastor. He served from 1897 to 1901. The next Pastor was Rev. Cicero Queen. He served two years—from 1901 to 1903. Rev. J. M. Bridges served during 1904. Rev. B. F. Newton was called back for the year 1905.

Rev. P. A. Bangle was called in 1906, and served two years—1907 and 1908. Rev. W. F. Hull was called in 1909, and served one year. Rev. B. F. Newton was called again in 1910 and served two years. Rev. J. A. Hoyle was called in 1913 and served two years. Rev. S. A. Stroup was called in 1916 and served one year. Rev. J. A. Hoyle was called back in 1917 and served until his death in 1918.

Rev. J. M. Ballard was called in 1918 and served 6 months. Rev. G. C. Ivery was called in 1919 and served one year. Rev. D. F. Putnam was called in 1920 and served one year. Rev. A. W. Setzer was called in 1921 and served until his death, 1922. Rev. L. C. Douthit was called in 1922 and served three years till 1925. Rev. C. M. Robinson was called in 1926 and served until 1930. Rev. G. C. Harris was called in 1930 and served two years, to 1932. Rev. J. L. Street was called in 1932

Rev. J. J. Waldrop next served as pastor and he was succeeded by Rev. A. L. Campbell, the present pastor.

## LONG CREEK MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH

Long Creek Baptist Church had its beginning back in other days—days where "the memory of man runneth not." All early records of this church have been lost, but there was a re-organization in 1772 and the records are fairly accurate from that time on.

In the oldest part of the church cemetery there are graves with markers dated as far back as July 28th, 1728, and these graves are near where it is said that the first old log church was built. It is said that the first church building was used many years before it was outgrown and another was built.

Mrs. Catherine Campo, the oldest member of this church, has just celebrated her 95th. birthday, and she states that the old log church was an old old building when she was a little child.

The first frame building was erected under the leadership of Rev. G. M. Webb, father of our own Federal Court Judge, Edwin Yates Webb. With the assistance of Mrs. Lovina Baldwin funds were raised to build a new church. As an inducement Mrs. Baldwin told the people they were planning to build a church with glass windows. The money was raised and the church was built.

In 1917 Rev. J. L. Vipperman, D. D. was called as pastor. Under the fine leadership of Doctor Vipperman a fine brick building was erected on the hill overlooking the sites of the old churches and the cemetery. It is a modern building with a seating capacity of 1,000. Memorial windows were put in this building and it is now called the Long Creek Memorial Baptist Church.

Rev. C. E. Phillips, D. D. was called to this church in July of 1930 and he is still pastor. One wing of the church has been enclosed, shrubbery has been planted in front of the church, and other improvements have been made on the building and the grounds. The church has a good Sunday school, four Baptist Training Unions, and the W. M. U. will be reorganized within the next two weeks. The church is making a monthly offering to the Baptist Orphanage, at Thomasville, N. C. The offering to Missions has increased, and the little indebtedness is being reduced and will soon be paid in full.





## HISTORY OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF LOWELL

By R. L. Reid

On September 21, 1892 a little band of worshippers under the leadership of Rev. M. P. Matheny, met in the Lowell Presbyterian Church and organized the Lowell Baptist Church which was admitted into the South Fork Association that same year. With forty-six charter members the church appointed a building committee one month after the date of its organization, and in six months the building was erected and paid for. In August of 1893 the church held its first revival meeting with preaching by Rev. W. C. Wilkins, of Charleston, S. C. In this meeting there were seven additions by baptism and several by letter. Since the date of the organization the church has had the service and leadership of the following pastors each of which worked faithfully and untiringly and won many souls to Christ and added many names to the roll of the church:

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|---|---|
| Rev. M. P. Matheny | Rev. I. T. Newton |
| Rev. E. F. Jones | Rev. C. Q. Rhyne |
| Rev. B. M. Austin | Rev. J. J. Waldrop |
| Rev. J. L. Vipperman | Rev. W. N. Cook |
| Rev. B. L. Hoke | Rev. L. B. Jessup |
| Rev. J. A. Hoyle | Rev. Rush Padgett |
| Rev. E. J. Edwards | Rev. L. P. Barnette |

For ten years from the organization in 1892 the church continued as a quarter-time church with preaching only once per month. But in 1902 when a call was extended to Rev. B. L. Hoke the church passed from quarter-time to half-time with preaching on the first and third Sundays in each month. In 1922 the Church became a full-time church and purchased a parsonage and moved the pastor on the field. Rev. J. J. Waldrop was the first pastor to occupy the new parsonage and to fill the pulpit to full time. In the latter part of 1927 it became evident that a new church building was necessary to take care of the continued growth of the church. So in 1923 under the direction of Rev. L. L. Jessup a new modern building was erected at a total cost of about $40,000.00. About $18,000.00 of this amount was paid during Brother Jessup's pastorate, leaving an indebtedness of $23,000.00 at the close of his term. Then came the depression, and for three years the church struggled to keep the interest paid on the debt. But for the past three years some changes have come about and the church has prospered better. During this time the church has been served by pastor L. P. Barnette, and has built four new Sunday School rooms, completed and seated the balcony, and

reduced the debt about $5,000.00. The church now bears the name of the First Baptist Church of Lowell which name it assumed in 1928 when another Baptist church was organized in this town.

The Church has now a building and ground worth $45,000.00, and a membership of 410, a Sunday School enrollment of 391, a B. T.U. membership of 75, and an indebtedness of $17,500.00. For the year ending Oct. 1, 1934 the church gave to all our causes the amount of $5,226.31. Rev. L. P. Barnette is the present pastor, and R. L. Reid is the Sunday School Superintendent.





## HISTORY OF MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

The present site of Mount Zion Church has been a place of worship for more than one hundred and twenty-five years. The same being testified to by old tombstones in the cemetery. Denominations other than Baptists, have worshipped there, namely Lutherans and Presbyterians, the first being under Brush Arbors.

In 1858 various Baptists living in the vicinity of Hebron Meeting House purchased a tract of land for the purpose of building a Baptist Church when constituted. Mount Zion Church was constituted on October 7, 1859. Those attending and assisting in the organization were: E. R. Elam and R. T. Hord of New Bethel; J. L. Ledford, J. C. Hoyle, N. H. Elliott and A. Beam of New Prospect Church of Cleveland County. The Presbytery organized by electing Elder T. Dixon as Moderator and J. C. Hoyle as Clerk. The records call for thirty-eight members, nineteen males and nineteen females.

A new Baptist church house was started soon after the organization of Mount Zion but work on it was interrupted with the coming on of the war and it was not finished until the war closed. The records are not clear as to who was the pastor for the first year. Elder E. Poston appears as the first pastor beginning in 1860. A. A. McSwain succeeded E. Poston and T. Dixon was called to the pastorate in 1863. A number of pastors served the church during its early life. The records indicate that the church had many difficulties, among the major ones being the question of the discipline of its members. Mount Zion has been missionary in spirit and in deeds, the records showing that early in its life money was raised for missionary work.

Three of God's great servants of earlier days who served us as pastor and who were well known throughout this section were: Rev. T. Dixon, father of Tom Dixon and Rev. A. C. Dixon, Rev. A. C. Ervin 1876-1882, Rev. A. P. Hollifield, 1885-1894.

The present church building was erected under the leadership of Rev. D. F. Putnam in 1902-03. Mount Zion has had a Sunday School since early in its life, the exact date of its organization being unknown. Tom Mullinax was the first Superintendent and John Hoke was assistant Superintendent. Riley Moss served in this capacity for twenty years. Mount Zion is one of the oldest Baptist churches in Gaston County. Many have first met the Lord here and in addition our church has been the moving spirit in the organization of many other Baptist churches, among them being Cherryville Baptist Church, Leonard's Fork and Shady Grove.

## MOUNTAIN SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

Mountain Side Baptist Church was organized on November 29, 1908 under the name of Spencer Mountain Baptist Church. Elder J. A. Hoyle was Moderator and J. F. Lowe Secretary.

The church organized with seventeen members, namely: J. B. Walters, Will Hollis, Walkin Wilkins, Walter Lowe, Will Allen, Luther Edwards, Robert Rhodes, C. L. Horne, Lucius Rhodes, Mrs. F. P. Lowe, Mrs. Amanda Rose, Mrs. Mary Eastwood, Miss Ella Allen, Mrs. Julia E. Petty, Flossie Cloninger and Lillie Flowers.

The Church Covenant and Articles of Faith of the First Baptist Church of Gastonia were adopted by the new church.

The Church was reorganized in 1932 with J. B. Payne as Pastor and adopted the name of Mountain Side Baptist Church. It now has approximately two hundred members and is progressing nicely. Rev. W. E. Abrams is the present pastor and serves the church for one-half time.





## McADENVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

The first account we have of any regular appointment by Baptist was in the year 1885, when Rev. T. W. Upton, a Baptist preacher who lived near, preached for a year. He made his home almost every month in the home of Brother J. M. Bumgarner. At the end of the year, Brother Bumgarner gave him a suit of clothes costing seven dollars, and Mrs. Charles Nipper gave him one dollar in money which constituted his year's salary. This good man doubtless laid the foundation for the beginning of the Baptist church at McAdenville.

In 1886 Hon. R. Y. McAden, the proprietor of the McAdenville Mills arranged for A. G. McManaway, pastor of Tryon Street Church, in Charlotte, to come once a month on Sunday afternoon and preach. He held a protracted meeting, baptized some thirty persons, and organized a church of those he baptized, and not of members holding letters.

The church was organized in an old church house which is now being used for a barn by the McAden mills. The old union church was used for about fifteen years by any denomination who wished to worship there. We have no minutes of the Baptist church from 1886 to 1893, but we find that the following pastors served the church during that period: Rev. White, from Blacksburg, S. C. and Rev. Mullinax, of Clover, S. C.

In the year 1893, Rev. J. M. Bridges was called to the church. There had not been much development up to this time. We notice from the minutes of 1893 that there was an offering made by the congregation for local church expense, which amounted to 45 cents. Then the church was canvassed to see how much could be raised per month. The pledges amounted to $11.95 per month.

Here are the names of the other pastors who have served the McAdenville church: Rev. M. P. Matheny, G. M. Webb, B. L. Hoke, J. L. Vipperman, A. P. Bumgarner, J. D. Moose, J. H. Vipperman, C. A. Caldwell, D. E. Vipperman, W B. McClure, Rush Padgett, Walter L. Wilson, H. E. Waldrop, Mr. Blake, W. O. Rivenbark, and the present pastor, D. C. Wesson.

The new church house was built in the time of B. L. Hoke's pastorate, 1899 to 1904. It is said that the church house was built on the cash basis. When the money ran out Brother Hoke would say, "Brethren, we can't go any further until some more money is raised." This work went on until Feb. 1901, when the church was

finished and dedicated. Brother Hoke got Rev. O. L. Stringfield, of Raleigh, to preach the dedicatory sermon. His subject was "The Mission of a Baptist Church."

In 1912 the church paid to local expenses $360.00, and to Missions, $45.00. In 1917, five years later, they paid to local expenses, $1,633.28, and to Missions, $98.85.

In 1918 they paid to local expenses, $1,877.28 and $199.20 to Missions; in 1920, the church paid $2,413.21 to local expenses and $951.13 to the 75 Million Campaign. In 1922 we paid $1,802.05 to the Campaign and $4,714.27 to local expenses.

In the history of the church it has never asked the State Mission Board for aid, but has made some development from year to year of its own strength.

In 1916-17, the church built a pastor's home in one of the best residential sections of McAdenville.

Here is a partial report of the financial development of the church from 1923-1934, for local expenses; and missions.

CHURCH EXPENSES—1923, $2880.31; 1924, $2379.59; 1925, $3001.-64; 1926, $3142.55; 1927, $3001.64; 1928, $3271.34; 1929, $2481.97; 1930, $1743.68; 1931, $2346.57; 1932, $1879.79; 1933, $2009.33; 1934, $1742.78, making a total of $29,881.19.

MISSIONS—1923, $2684.86; 1924, $953.11; 1925, $799.31; 1926, $13-67.67; 1927,$895.40; 1928, $936.50; 1929, $425.00; 1930, $375.00; 1931, $440.89; 1932, $116.07; 1933, $123.10; 1934, $207.80, totaling $9,324.71.

We consider that this church has done well to be in a small town. We have now 291 members of the church. The Church is out of debt.

The deacons are: B. H. Waters, Chairman, T. L. Austin, M. A. Harwell, D. F. Lawrence, Labe Abernathy, C. E. Austin, J. W. Rankin, J. L. Lineberger, Lee Jenkins, E. C. Adcock, J. C. Pence.

Brother E. F. Hoffman is the church Clerk, and C. E. Austin is the Church Treasurer. Mrs. J. C. Harris is the President of the W. M. S. We have four B. T. U.'s, led by Mr. Walter Savage, as director.

In the history of the church Mr. Wesson has served longer than any other pastor this church has had. He has been here five years, and is entering on his sixth year.

In the history of this church it has added Sunday School rooms, and installed a good heating plant. We have also done some work on our church grounds that adds beauty to our church.





## MISSION BAPTIST CHURCH

On May 5, 1935 at a little Store building on North Oakland St. in Gastonia, the Mission Baptist Church was organized. J. W. Whitley was Chairman of the Council of Churches and W. L. Hawkins, Clerk. The Council represented the First, East, Calvary, Flint Grove, Sandy Plains, Marietta Street, and Harden Baptist Churches.

The following pastors formed the Presbytery: Dr. J. W. Whitley, Moderator; J. A. Hudson, B. F. Austin, G. W. Davis, W. L. Hawkins, G. Redding, and H. W. Baucom.

The following were Charter members: C. E. Brooks, Mrs. C. E. Brooks, D. E. Brady, Mrs. B. E. Brady, Mrs. Gladys Fox, Mrs. Grace Fish, Charlie Garrison, Miss Beulah Griffin, D. B. Harwell, J. S. Hawkins, Leno Hawkins, Daisy Hawkins, Rosetta Hawkins, Mrs. J. S. Hawkins, W. L. Head, Jack Head, Mrs. Mary Reneau, J. A. Reneau, Mrs. J. A. Reneau, Andrew Smith, Mrs. Nellie Smith, E. T. Merrill, Mrs. E. T. Merrill, Frank Jenkins, Mrs. Frank Jenkins, J. A. King, Mrs. J. A. King, C. L. King, Mrs. C. L. King, Miss Celestial King, Dessie Mae King, J. D. King, Della Ruth King, Mrs. Darwin Long, Hellen Little, E. G. McFee, Mrs. E. G. McFee, Marie Plyler, Dorothy Plyler, Mrs. Thelma Smith.

The church called C. E. Brooks for pastor. The following officers were elected: C. L. King, clerk; Frank Jenkins, treasurer; J. A. Reneau, J. A. King, and Frank Jenkins, deacons. The name "Mission Baptist Church" was selected.

The congregation moved into their new house of worship on North Magnolia Street, near the Gastonia Weaving Company, on the first Sunday in June, 1935. The event was observed with fitting exercises including a dinner served on the grounds of the mill nearby. In the afternoon the church ordained Rev. C. E. Brooks, pastor.

The building consists of two Sunday School rooms, baptistry, main auditorium with a seating capacity of 300. Morning and evening worship is held each Lord's day. Has 215 on roll in Sunday School September 22, 1935. Membership has grown until the present enrollment is 81. By baptism 18, by letter and statement 20. The organization grew out of a Mission Sunday School established in August, 1929. Most of the Sunday School workers are Charter Members of the Church.

## MOUNTAIN VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Mountain View Baptist Church was organized at Crowders Mountain on June 17, 1928.

A Presbytery was called to consider the reorganization of the Crowder's Mountain Baptist Church now disbanded. After songs and prayer, led by Rev. W. N. Cook, of King's Mountain, Rev. J. W. Whitley, of Gastonia, was made temporary chairman.

The following persons from different churches sat in the meeting: J. E. Campbell, H. E. Love, S. G. McAllister, Rev. J. H. Boggs, J. M. Buchannon, L. P. Waldrop, F. C. Plemmons, Brack Derryberry, S. B. Laws, W. A. Marley, Ernest King, R. C. Blanton, Jacob Alexander, N. C. Hicks, R. C. Price, Rev. W. A. Hoffman, Rev. T. L. Cashwell, Rev. Geo. W. Davis, Rev. J .W. Whitley and Rev. W. N. Cook.

The Presbytery organized by electing J. W. Whitley as moderator and W. N. Cook as secretary, after which those who wished to come into the new organization were asked to come forward and the following persons presented themselves for membership:

Lon Mullinax, P. H. Welch, J. J. Hollifield, Charlie McFalls, W. L. Mullinax, Mrs. Homer Myers, Alice Taylor, Pearl Welch, Alverny Welch, Mrs. D. T. Birchfield, H. J. Taylor, Bessie Welch, Emma Welch, Loray Welch, Dollie Collins, Smanath Hollifield, O. J. Lyda, J. M. Welch, Eunice McFalls, Mrs. Eldridge Mitchell, Mrs. Buchannon, Wannie Banks, Mrs. Maude Birch, Bessie Taylor, Gussie Taylor, Susie Mayberry, Sallie Mullinax.

Rev. D. F. Birchfield presented the New Hampshire Articles of Faith and read the church covenant, which was adopted. A motion was made to recognize the new organization as a regularly organized Baptist Church and the motion was passed by vote of the Presbytery after which the right hand of fellowship was extended to all of those joining.

A motion was then made that the book be kept open until July 10, and that all joining by that date shall be entered as charter members.

Motion was made and passed, that Rev. J. W. Whitley sit as moderator until the officers be elected. Brother O. J. Lyda was elected as clerk, Rev. D. F. Birchfield was chosen as first pastor. Motion was made and passed that the new church organization be known as Mountain View Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. T. L. Cashwell, of East Church, Gastonia, delivered the charge to the new church.

The following have served as pastors of this church since its organization: D. F. Birchfield, W. H. Redman, Arnold Whitesides, A. L. Campbell and the present pastor, Johnnie Moss.





## MOUNT BEULAH BAPTIST CHURCH

The first Baptist preaching in the Mount Beulah section was done by Rev. I. T. Newton who was then pastor of the Dallas Baptist church. This was during the summer of 1916. The services he held were in an old school house near the home of Brother F. M. Payseur. It was known as "The Carolina School House." It is now used as a dwelling.

The preaching that Rev. Newton did created much interest in Baptist affairs, so the Baptists of the community decided that they must have a church. The date for the organization was set for September 10, 1916. Accordingly, they met and the services were begun by singing some good hymns which was followed by an earnest prayer led by Rev. C. M. Robinson. They then organized a presbytery composed of Revs. I. T. Newton, W. C. Barrett, G. P. Abernathey. Rev. Newton was elected chairman and they proceeded at once to organize. The door of the church was opened and twenty-eight presented letters from Baptist churches round about. W. C. Barrett read the Articles of Faith and the Church Covenant was read by Rev. G. P. Abernathey. These were both adopted and the presbytery declared the organized body a Baptist church. Rev. I. T. Newton was called to serve the church as pastor.

The brethren proceeded at once to make plans for the erection of a house of worship. Mr. Sid L. Kiser donated a lot on the Cherryville-Dallas highway and so the brethren made ready and began their building the first of the year of 1917. The house was soon ready for services and the pastor preached the first sermon in it and served the church for more than a year. He then resigned to take work elsewhere. He was followed by Rev. D. F. Putnam who served from July 1, 1917 until September 15, 1918. He was succeeded by Dr. J. L. Vipperman who served until September 2, 1923. After him came Rev. W. G. Camp who served about nine years. He did a splendid work here. He was followed by Rev. W. P. Biggerstaff who served as supply for several months. Then the church called C. J. Black, the present pastor. He took charge the first of May 1934. Since he began, the church has bought a new piano, installed a Delco lighting system, and has placed the Sunday School on the Standard list. The church is almost one hundred per cent for The Lord's Acre Plan. It has all of the B. T. U. organizations and is one of the most wide awake rural Baptist churches in our section of the state.

## MOUNT HOLLY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Mt. Holly Church was organized December 1889. The deacons from Hebron and Fellowship took the initiative in the organization of the Mt. Holly church. Rev. M. P. Matheny was the first pastor and served the church one year. Rev. C. E. Gore was the second pastor, and served from 1890 to 1895. Rev. W. J. Hopkins was pastor for four years and he was succeeded by Rev. C. M. Murkinson, who served two years. During the pastorates of these men they held services at Tuckasiege and Hebron.

Rev. J. D. Bowen was then extended a call and he served surrounding churches as did Rev. W. J. Bumgardner, the successor of Rev. Mr. Bowen. The church continued to make progress and soon went to full time. Rev. I. T. Newton was then pastor and served from 1904 to 1909.

Beginning with 1909 the following have served as pastors: Rev. D. E. Vipperman, Rev. E. C. Andrews, Dr. W. G. Moore, Rev. C. A. G. Thomas, Rev. Ford Burns, Dr. J. L. Vass and Rev. M. L. Barnes who is the present pastor, beginning his work in 1930.

Mt. Holly has a modern building and a membership 698. The church also has an aggressive Sunday School, B. T. U. and W. M. U., also all the Auxiliaries fostered by the denomination.





## HISTORY OF RANLO BAPTIST CHURCH

Ranlo Baptist Church is located four miles east of Gastonia in the heart of the community made up of the textile plants of Ranlo Manufacturing Company, Rex Spinning Company and Priscilla Mills. The A. M. Smyre Manufacturing Company's plant is nearby and from this community a number of members are drawn.

This church had its beginning in the latter part of 1917 or early 1918 as a mission of the Loray Baptist Church. It was seen that a Baptist Church should be organized to take care of the work in this fast growing community. Rev. G. P. Abernethy, then pastor of the Loray Church, carried on this work as a mission for some eighteen months. A revival meeting was held in the Rex community house and when it was closed the following persons gave their names for membership: Mrs. J. C. Costner, Ellen Clary, Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Day, Mr. & Mrs. D. E. Elmore, Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Ford, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hawkins, Mrs. Lizzie Horton, Mrs. Cora McArver, Mr. & Mrs. O. G. Payseur, Mr. & Mrs. L. B. Reeves, Nellie Reeves, Elmer Reeves, Beulah Reeves, Mr. & Mrs. J. O. Stafford, Floyd Stafford, Vera Stafford; Mr. & Mrs. M. T. Stafford, Mrs. D. G. Watts, Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Wallace.

The organization meeting was set for Sunday afternoon, June 8, 1919, at three o'clock, but due to a rainstorm was postponed. The organization was perfected on Tuesday evening, June 10, 1919, and Rev. G. P. Abernethy was called as pastor. He served until September of the same year when he resigned.

Rev. C. Q. Rhyne was called as the second pastor and the prospects for his success here were bright but ten months afterwards he lost his life by accident, having been shot while out hunting with friends.

Rev. M. L. Barnes was the third pastor and during his pastorate the church made great strides forward. The church was now using the building of the Ranlo Graded Schools for its services, preaching being had twice monthly. The Sunday School of the community was a union school at this time.

The real problems of the church began with preparations for and building a house of worship. The first building, a wooden structure, was used only a short time when it was completely destroyed by fire. This made necessary a new beginning. Surely it would be a good time to quit. There were not only no funds with which to begin anew, but there was a burden of debt due to insufficient insurance to cover the loss caused by the fire.

Under the leadership of Brother Barnes the church undertook the task of rebuilding and at a cost of approximately $18,000.00 the present brick structure was erected. A parsonage was also erected at a cost of $3,500.00. At times the debt of the church has looked to be an impossible mountain in its pathway.

With the resignation of Brother Barnes, Rev. J. W. Kesterson was called to the pastorate. He served the church for a period of two years, leaving in 1928.

In August 1928, the church extended a call to Rev. W. L. Walters. He accepted the work and began with the first Sunday of September and has now completed seven years as pastor.

The debt of the church in 1928 was above $12,000.00. While at that time it looked to be an impossible task it has been reduced year by year, even in the period of severe depression, and now the unprovided for debt on the church building is less than $500.00 and that on the parsonage slightly above $1,200.00. It is good indeed to be so near the end of this terrible journey of debt.

Even in a brief history of our church we must mention some friends who have made the work lighter by their splendid gifts and cooperation: There were eight men of Gastonia who personally gave their note for $800.00 to purchase a lot for a church in our community, they were: Rev. W. C. Barrett, Rev. J. W. Whitley, Rev. G. P. Abernethy, W. J. Clifford, T. C. Smith, H. B. Moore, W. L. Walters, C. B. Newton. This note was later assumed and paid by the church. Mr. W. T. Love provided the seating, has given liberally, otherwise to the church, and as an executive of the Ranlo Mills has been a great friend of ours. The Rex Spinning Company assumed the payment of a note of some size due one of our banks and which was a very heavy burden on us. Mr. J. E. Simpson donated a pipe organ to us early in 1933 and it has been a source of joy to the membership. There are many others not connected with us who have been a help and blessing to us but who cannot be mentioned here.

The greatest gifts, and the greatest service rendered during the sixteen years of the life of the church, have come from the lives of individuals placed upon God's Altar without reserve. The little group of twenty-eight at the beginning has grown to more than four hundred and fifty at present. Truly, God has been good to us. We now look to the rising sun of other new days when we may serve our Lord better than ever before.





## SANDY PLAINS BAPTIST CHURCH

Sandy Plains Baptist Church is located in the southern part of Gaston county. It has not always been known as Sandy Plains. It was first organized as Union Baptist Church on June 26, 1863 on a lot about one-half mile east of the present location. The membership was composed of 49 whites and 12 colored. The lot was owned jointly by all denominations.

The present organization was made on May 22, 1870, moved to the present location and built the first house of worship about 1873-74. The work has gone on since that time, not always at its best, but with enough faithful ones to keep the work going. The present membership is 280 with a Sunday School enrollment of 250.

The following have served as pastors:

A. J. Cansler, 1863-1866.
T. R. Gains, 1866-68.
E. A. Poe, 1869-70.
Euander Davids, 1870-71.
D. W. Thomasson, 1871-78.
P. R. Elam, 1878-81.
J. F. Morris, 1881-88.
W. B. McClure, 1888-89.
C. F. Felmet, 1889-90.
J. M. Bridges, 1890-91.
B. M. Bridges, 1891-1901.
James Gillespie, 1902.
J. A. Hoyle, 1903-07.
C. F. Felmet, 1907-10.
J. J. Beach, 1910-16.
J. W. Whitley, 1916-18.
W. A. Hough, 1918-21.
W. W. Rimmer, 1924-27.
C. J. Black, 1921-24.
L. L. Jessup, 1927-30.
M. P. Rhyne, 1930, is still pastor.

The first building has been enlarged three times and is now meeting the needs of the Church and Sunday School very well.

## SHADY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

On November 25, 1881 Shady Grove Baptist Church was organized under a brush arbor near the site of the present church building, three miles south of Cherryville on the Bessemer City road. Rev. C. F. Felmet, Rev. J. A. Hoyle and Rev. A. C. Irvin had held revival meetings under this brush arbor. One of these brush arbors stood near where the Fairview Public School is now located. Rev. A. C. Irvin baptized about twenty-five converts from one of these meetings held under the arbor.

The Presbytery which organized this church was composed of the following brethren: From Shelby, Elder A. L. Stough; from Mt. Zion, Elder N. H. Moss, J. R. Moss and W. H. Hoover and E. R. Wellmon; from Sandy Rum, Elder A. A. McSwain; from Zion, Elder A. C. Irvin. Rev. A. L. Stough preached the sermon from Acts 12:24, "But the word of God grew and multiplied." He was then elected as chairman of the Presbytery. Elder A. A. McSwain was elected Secretary. Elder A. C. Irvin led in prayer. The Church Covenant and Articles of Faith were read and approved, after which those named below were formed into a church called Shady Grove. These charter members were: I. P. Hicks, Noah Mauney, John Neil, James Snead, M. L. Hullett, M. L. Neil, Jake Brillhart, C. M. Crowder, James Farris, Samuel Farris, R. B. Hicks, J. T. Taylor, C. Eaker, J. A. Hoyle, Mary Hicks, Katherine Mauney, E. L. Farris, Lydia Stroup, Sarah Brillhart, Sara Beam, P. C. McGinnis, Huldah J. Mauney, M. E. Black, Sarah Browne, Anna Black, Cynthia Beam, M. A. Crowder, Elizabeth Mauney, M. A. Hullett, Jemima Dellinger and M. A. Long. It is said that only two of these charter members are now living. They are Mrs. Huldah J. Mauney who is still a member of Shady Grove, and Mrs. Noah Hicks of the Cherryville Baptist Church.

The land for the church was donated by J. J. Stroup and J. H. Witherspoon. During recent years some more land has been bought by the church and added to the original plot. The first building was erected mainly by Oliver Hicks, Noah Hicks, R. B. Hicks and Noah Mauney. It is said that James Farris, a crippled man, made shingles at night by a lantern light to cover the first building.

The first pastor was Elder J. A. Hoyle, ordained at Shady Grove June 16, 1882 by a Presbytery composed of Elders Thomas Dixon, G. M. Webb and A. L. Stough. The first trustees were I. P. Hicks, Noah Mauney and M. L. Hullett. The first deacons were I. P. Hicks, Noah Mauney, M. L. Hullett and James Farris. Brother I. P. Hicks must have come to Shady Grove as a deacon for the records show that these other three first deacons were ordained on the very same





day that Rev. J. A. Hoyle was ordained to the ministry and by the same Presbytery but in a separate session of the said body.

The following men have served Shady Grove as pastors: Rev. J. A. Hoyle, Rev. C. F. Felmet, Rev. T. L. Moss, Rev. P. R. Elam, Rev. J. E. Bridges, Rev. G. M. Webb, Rev. R. N. Hawkins, Rev. J. D. Woodward, Rev. C. W. Payseur, Rev. J. C. Blanton, Rev. C. A. Caldwell, Rev. L. A. Bangle, Rev. J. J. Waldrop, Rev. G. C. Ivey, Rev. A. W. Setzer, Rev. W. T. Brown and the present pastor, Rev. W. G. Camp. The longest pastorates have been those of L. A. Bangle who served eight years, R. N. Hawkins who served seven and the present pastor who has been with the church ten years.

The first Treasurer was I. P. Hicks. D. M. Witherspoon has now been treasurer for about twenty-five years. The Treasurer of our mission funds is Miss Lorene Stroupe. Up to this year the church has had only four clerks. They were M. L. Hullett, D. N. Hicks, R. B. Hicks and D. R. Stroupe. Brother Stroupe served as clerk for about thirty-eight years. Since his death during this year, the church has recently elected young Brother Earl Sellers to succeed him as clerk. In the year 1934 three new men were added to the Board of Deacons. The present board consists of Joseph Mauney, Tom P. Sellers, D. M. Witherspoon, Bert Stroupe, Floyd L. Mauney, C. A. Martin, Charlie Sellers and Noah Mauney. The three laest named being those who were elected to the board in 1934. Noah Mauney is a grandson of the first deacon of the same name. Some of the earlier deacons moved away but Noah Mauney and Phillip Mauney, each served as deacon until death.

About nine years ago the church building was turned so as to face the highway and some additional space was added by building four class rooms for the Sunday School and a splendid place for the choir just to the rear of the pulpit. The first choir leader of which the records speak was Samuel Farris and the second was Noah Hicks. For many years Shady Grove has been known for its good music. The present choir sings well under the direction of Brother F. L. Mauney. Miss Clara Delle Stroupe is pianist. We have had for several years a splendid Sunday School with well trained teachers and officers. Brother J. R. Witherspoon is our present and efficient Superintendent.

The records of 1885 show that Shady Grove elected delegates to the Broad River Association which met at State Line Church four miles from where Chesnee, S. S. now is. Later Shady Grove became a member of the Kings Mountain Association and finally of the Gaston, in the organization of the Gaston.

## TUCKASEEGE BAPTIST CHURCH

This church was organized on April 16, 1911. The Presbytery was composed of Rev. I. T. Newton, Rev. D. E. Vipperman, Rev. W. B. McClure and Deacon W. F. Huggins.

The first deacons were J. W. Bumgardner, Walter Mullis, A. J. Mauney. The first Clerk F. J. Harris and the Treasurer W. G. Stowe.

The following were among the fifty-nine members with which the church was organized: G. R. Auten, T. Alexander, J. W. Bumgardner, Docia Curry, Viola Connell, D. R. Huffstickler, M. H. Huffstickler, F. T. Hovis, Lizzie Hartgrove, Janie Johnson, L. Lawing, C. F. Lowe, George L. Mullis, A. J. Mauney, J. W. Miller, W. W. McAllister, Cluster Nichols, W. L. O'Daniel, E. A. Riley, L. A. Stone, and Lillie Thrower.

George L. Mullis was elected pastor of this church which was organized in the public school building. Services were held in this building for one year when a building was erected. The building was 36X48. Later wings were built on either side.

Later a parsonage was built which has enabled us to have a pastor on the field almost continuously. This has been a great blessing to our community. Recently a heating plant has been installed and the grounds beautified, and folding partitions have been installed in the church. These all add much to the appearance and comfort. The partitions enable the classes to have separate rooms for their work and for B. Y. P. U.

The present pastor, Rev. W. E. Abrams, formerly of Mars Hill, N. C., is emphasizing the necessity of serving to the full extent of one's ability. With the support and cooperation of such a loyal people we are expecting to see this church go forward in a great way.